

Two killed, 62 hurt in bomb attack on London Hilton

Two people were killed and 62 injured when a bomb exploded at lunchtime yesterday on the ground floor of the Hilton Hotel, in the West End of London. A warning had been telephoned

to a newspaper office. Some witnesses complained of a delay in evacuating the lobby and there was conflict as to what warning was given to the hotel by the police.

Conflict between police and hotel on warning

A Martin Ruckley, a woman and a man were killed and 62 people were injured, eight seriously, when a bomb exploded at lunchtime yesterday in the foyer of the Hilton Hotel, in the West End of London.

A warning had been telephoned to the London Evening Standard 20 minutes earlier by a man speaking with an Irish accent but police and security men had only just started to clear the lobby area when the bomb exploded among foreign visitors and hotel staff.

Dazed and bleeding, guests and staff ran from the ruins of the lobby as casualties lay among the wreckage. A building shook from the explosion which also knocked people who were passing in the street. Mr. Jenkins, the man who was injured, said: "I was in the lobby when the bomb exploded. I was thrown into the air and I landed on the floor. I was hurt and I was bleeding. I was lying on the floor for about 10 minutes before I was picked up by the police. I was taken to the hospital and I was treated for my injuries. I am now recovering from my injuries and I am back at work."

The explosion wrecked the lobby and the shops around it, and shattered the glass of the hotel. The explosion also killed a man and a woman and injured 62 people. The explosion was the worst in London since the bombing of the Kingsley Hall in 1941.

The warning was received by the London Evening Standard at about 12.15 pm, before the explosion at 12.18 pm, the police said.

He was trained in first aid and went to help a man whose leg had been shattered. Mr. Power managed to stop the bleeding. The man was a middle-aged Israeli, who had been staying at the hotel on the Park near by. Mr. Power thought most of the injured were foreigners.

Mrs. Condie Mann, the hotel's telecommunications manager, said: "People were just running around screaming hysterically. In the telephone exchange they had received a warning, over their internal emergency telephone, saying 'a bomb is going off in reception'. But before they could put their bomb procedure into action it went off."

Mr. Louis Blouet, general manager of the Hilton, said last night that he was not aware of anyone having been evacuated from the lobby before the explosion. The police had arrived at the hotel perhaps four or five minutes before the bomb went off, and had started searching perhaps only a minute before the explosion. He had no knowledge of any telephone call from the police, or any other warning.

He said their normal procedure when receiving bomb calls, of which they received a considerable number, was to search the hotel before deciding about evacuation, which anyway could be dangerous because it would bring people down into the lobby area.

Scotland Yard said, however, that they had telephoned a warning to the hotel shortly after noon.

Loyalists angry over Rees speech

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

In spite of the renewed London bombings, Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday showed no inclination to submit to mounting "loyalist" pressure for an immediate reversal of the Government's security policy towards the Provisional IRA.

His much heralded crisis statement to the people of Ulster succeeded, even before it was broadcast on local television, in increasing the frustration and anger among loyalist politicians and the threats from para-military groups to take direct action.

Although strenuous efforts were made by Stormont officials to embargo the contents of the pre-recorded broadcast, until it was transmitted shortly after 6 pm, a remarkably accurate account had found its way into the hands of the Rev. Ian Paisley by early afternoon.

The leader of the Democratic Unionist Party immediately rejected the plea for political moderation and announced his intention to continue trying to force an indefinite postponement of the constitutional Convention.

He said that was the only way to make Westminster drop its alleged appeasement of the Provisional IRA.

Other members of the loyalist coalition were equally infuriated by what they claimed was a lack of initiative in Mr. Rees's broadcast. A spokesman for Mr. William Craig's Vanguard Unionist Alliance said: "The speech was a pure window-dressing. There is nothing new in it at all, and we reject it as totally inadequate."

Leading moderate members of the Convention, including Mr. Oliver Napier, of the Alliance Party, and Mr. Brian Faulkner, the former Prime Minister, also expressed strong concern that the broadcast lacked new measures against terrorists of either religious persuasion.

His six-minute broadcast to the Convention was the Government's policy, as exemplified in the Convention, was to encourage local politicians to find an agreed and acceptable political settlement.

Although not naming Mr. Paisley, Mr. Rees went on to deliver an undisguised attack against his recent attempts to wreck the Convention in protest over security policy.

Reaction in Belfast political circles was that the statement would serve only to increase pressure on Mr. Rees to alter his policies and step up Army and police activity throughout the province. The arrival of 650 extra troops during the day did not go far enough to meet even the demands of his more moderate opponents.

Meanwhile, it became apparent that the immediate fate of the Convention will be decided at a full meeting of the loyalist coalition on Monday, when Mr. Paisley will put forward his suggestion of a protest adjournment. The idea is still opposed by Mr. West, leader of the official Unionists.

Mr. Rees's broadcast came during another day of widespread sectarian violence in Ulster, which by early evening had left four people seriously injured in a series of bombings and shootings.

President Ford escapes attempted assassination as woman aims pistol at point blank range

From Fred Emery, Washington, Sept 5

President Ford escaped an assassination attempt today when a woman aimed a gun at him at point blank range. A presidential bodyguard wrestled the woman to the ground before the gun could go off.

The President was walking alongside a crowd shaking hands in Sacramento, California when the pistol, said to be a loaded .45, appeared 2 ft from his face. The woman shouted repeatedly, "It didn't go off", as she was apparently ward off rough handling.

But such was the President's aplomb that within one and half hours of the incident he delivered an address on radio and television from the California State Legislature without mentioning the drama.

The woman was identified by White House spokesmen as Lynn Alice Fromme, aged 26, of Sacramento. She was said to be a follower of Charles Manson, now serving a life sentence in Los Angeles for the murder of Miss Sharon Tate, the actress, and others in 1969.

She was taken to Sacramento police station and charged with attempted assassination.

Miss Fromme shaved her head and carved an "X" on her scalp during the Manson trial. In Sacramento she and the other girls were supposedly watched closely, after demonstrating as "nuns" in pursuit of "the peace of the world".

Some witnesses, including journalists, said that the President himself had pushed away the gun, but this was not borne out by the White House spokesmen. Mr. Ford was said to have been "aware" of the incident, other witnesses saw him duck and flinch.

The President was hurried to the White House by helicopter. The White House said he had "no comment" and was preparing to pursue his scheduled political activities for the rest of the day.

The only injury reported was a cut hand on one of the Secret Service bodyguards.



Miss Lynn Alice Fromme, who is alleged to have attempted to kill the President, is led away after the incident.

Service bodyguards, Mr. Larry Buendorf. It was not clear whether his hand had been caught in the trigger mechanism, the White House spokesmen said.

The incident occurred shortly after 10 am as the President left the Senator Hotel to cross to the palm-fringed plaza of the state Capitol.

With a crowd of several hundred spectators on his left, Mr. Ford walked along the line, shaking hands as he went, when he came face to face with the gun. After that there was some confusion in the crowd as people nearby threw themselves to the ground.

The attempt was strikingly similar to the shooting of Governor George Wallace by Arthur Bremer in 1972. In that case the Secret Service bodyguard was himself shot as he tried to ward off the shooting from point blank range.

Miss Irene Morrison, who was standing next to the President, was unharmed. Continued on page 4, col 4

General Goncalves accepts defeat

Tancos, Sept 5—General

Vasco Goncalves, Portugal's pro-Communist former Prime Minister, tonight abandoned his attempt to become commander-in-chief of the armed forces in the face of widespread opposition to his nomination.

General Goncalves was also removed from membership of the ruling military Revolutionary Council, together with three of his closest supporters—Brigadier Eurico Curvaco, commander of the northern military region, Captain Manuel Ferreira de Sousa and Captain Luis Mateo.

Michael Knipe writes from Lisbon: Earlier today the Armed Forces Movement (MFA) assembly had been in complete disarray when official Army and Air Force delegates boycotted a crucial MFA assembly meeting. Delegates of the more staunchly left-wing Navy, however, proceeded to hold a meeting with

disident pro-Goncalves Army elements.

However, a military spokesman said that their proceedings, attended by President Costa Gomes and General Vasco Goncalves, the former Prime Minister, did not constitute "an official assembly".

The dispute, centred upon General Goncalves's proposed appointment as commander in chief of the armed forces. The Army and Air Force assemblies had opposed the appointment while the Navy assembly supported it.

Another issue was a plan to restructure the Revolutionary Council. The Army is demanding that the MFA assembly should itself be restructured along more representative and clearly defined democratic lines before it is called into session. As it is at present, the MFA assembly consists of 120 Army delegates and 50 each from the Air Force and Navy. The process of their selection is haphazard and has in the past been subject to considerable manipulation.

The MFA assembly was due to convene at 10.30 am today at the Tancos army base 80 miles north of Lisbon in the general military region. It was delayed for five hours while the Army assembly unexpectedly reconvened to confirm its decision to oppose General Goncalves's appointment and to boycott the MFA assembly.

When the Navy delegates insisted on proceeding with their vote, they were supported by the 40-strong minority of the Army delegates, who back General Goncalves.

A man was in hospital in serious condition in Lisbon tonight after being injured during a demonstration outside the offices of the *Diario de Noticias*, a Lisbon morning newspaper. Troops fired in the air.

Continued on page 4, col 4

dbroke's holiday np prices

Business News Staff

adbroke Group has been by the Price Commission reduce prices at eight camps after complaints from customers and investigation of the commission's referees. The commission, once before used its under the Consumer Inflation Act, 1973, to order a 10 per cent reduction in prices.

Under the Act, the Commission has the power to limit each holiday camp to no more than 10 per cent above the corresponding price during the 1974 season. Companies are found to be over-riding the Commission's price controls are allowed a 10 per cent increase in price code normally voluntary agreements at excess profits.

oup was told of the Commission's intention on 5 and given 14 days any representation. made yesterday took the company's representative.

ht holiday camps cond: the Caister Holiday e Sun Beach Holiday e the Seashore Holiday, all in Great Yarmouth. Silver Sands Holiday e Caister-on-Sea, the nds Holiday Village, h. Corwell, and the nds Point and Fort loliday Villages on the th.

dbroke Group acquired v camps in 1972 and last year sold more 100 individual holiday camps. The group's target this 3,000 holidays, or comes into effect y and prices will be adjusted from today. y are covered, in- ar and restaurant ar as the Price Com- cerned the order spective.

Sudan revolt foiled in fierce battle

Loyalist forces yesterday foiled an attempted coup against President Nimeiry of Sudan by rebel officers after a short, fierce battle at the national radio headquarters. The leader of the rebels, a parachute colonel, who was said to be seriously wounded in the fighting, first succeeded in broadcasting a call for the overthrow of the Government. The rebels were reported to have affiliations with both the Muslim Brotherhood and the communists. President Nimeiry said he had "no difficulty" repressing the revolt.

Israelis walk out of MPs' conference

Israeli delegates, led by Mr. Abba Eban, former Foreign Minister, and Lord Jenner, a former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, walked out of the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in London yesterday. They were protesting at a representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization being called to speak.

'Sell-out' in Rhodesia

Mr. Enos Nkomo, a leading Rhodesian nationalist, yesterday accused the British Government of "scheming" to reach a compromise settlement disregarding nationalist demands for immediate black majority rule. He said Whitehall was supporting Mr. Joshua Nkomo "who stands for a sell-out."

Chips may cost more

The prices of chips and crisps are likely to rise sharply because the light potato harvest has trebled prices to processors. Birds Eye Foods, which raised its frozen chip prices 10 days ago, is already seeking another increase.

Tyneside strike ends

A nine-week strike of about 5,000 workers at Swan Hunter's Tyneside shipyards ended yesterday without achieving the 58 a week pay rise demanded.

TUC wants action soon on jobs

The Government was pressed for action "this autumn" to protect jobs by Mr. Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC. Speaking after the TUC conference at Blackpool had concluded, Mr. Murray indicated that unemployment would be a priority during meetings between ministers and TUC leaders which begin next week. He said the TUC decision had helped to consolidate the social contract.

Theatre Museum for Covent Garden

The proposed Theatre Museum is to be housed at Covent Garden, Mr. Hugh Jenkins, minister responsible for the arts, announced yesterday, ending months of argument. The Film Rooms at Somerset House, which were expected to be the museum's home, will now be available for other use, possibly a Turner exhibition.

New York breather

New York's municipal employees' unions gave the city a financial breather yesterday by buying \$100m (about £50m) worth of special bonds. The money was rushed to the city's bank accounts—and New York was enabled to remain solvent for at least a few days.

Features, pages 6, 8, 9 and 12: Reginald Maudling discusses the urgent challenge to our comfortable society that politicians must face; Diana Patt describes London's newest picture library; John Woodcock on a lovely year of cricket.

Saturday review: Bridge, chess, travel, gardening, Good Food Guide. Letters: On housing subsidies for Mr. Michael Harwood and others; law on pornography from Mr. T. C. Hartley.

Leading articles: New work for the IMF; The Hilton bomb; Covent Garden. Sport, pages 10 and 11: Cricket: John Woodcock previews the Gillette Cup final. Leicestershire strengthen their chances in county championship; Golf: Ryder Cup men all eliminated from Sun Alliance event. Britain and Ireland - win Vagliano Trophy; Racing: English and French week-end programmes.

Home News 2-4, Chess 9, Gardening 9, TV & Radio 8, European News 4, Church 14, Letters 12, Overseas News 4-5, Court 14, Obituary 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Accounts disclosed of Stonehouse bank

Accounts of the London Capital Group, of which Mr. John Stonehouse was formerly chairman, disclosed in detail a series of transactions involving loans to private companies of Mr. Stonehouse before his disappearance last year.

Employment: Mr. Hesth yesterday accused the Government of "colossal stony callousness" over rising unemployment.

Waving the flag: The 95,000-ton American aircraft carrier USS Nimitz is visiting the Firth of Forth on a public relations exercise.

Religious education: Plea for teaching of Marxism and Leninism is an attack on Christian tradition of schools, headmaster says.

George Davis case: Police are going to Paris to interview a man who is said to have vital evidence.

Madrid: Editors of 12 Spanish magazines express their "profound alarm and disgust" at the increasing number of magazines being banned.

Athens: A defendant in the torture trial says he ordered the archives of the EAT-ESA camp to be burnt.

Quebec: The contentious issue of minority language rights in the Canadian province is revived with the publication of regulations under a Bill which makes French the official language.

Arts, page 7: Sheridan Morley talks to Tony Harrison on transferring Racine's *Phedre* to British India for the National Theatre; Michael Ratcliffe looks forward to a new series with Elaine Stritch and Donald Sinden which opens on London. Weekend tonight: John Higgins reviews a sparkling revival of Scottish Opera's *Don Giovanni* at Aldeburgh. Obituary, page 14: Mr. Jean Bicknell. Business News, pages 15-19: Stock market: Equities steadied after some profit taking yesterday. The FT index fell 2 points to 327. Personal investment and finance: Pensions: Eric Brunet argues that there are injustices in the new state scheme; Insurance: The not so simple matter of making a claim for a theft is discussed by John Drummond; Investment: Adrienne Gleason suggests some fixed interest opportunities.

Four are killed in fall at Peak Cavern

From Our Correspondent, Chesterfield

Four men aged between 18 and 23 fell to their deaths last night at the Peak Cavern, Castleton, Derbyshire. The bodies were carried from the cliff face to the village by mountain rescue workers.

Mr. Bob Lewis, custodian of the cavern, which is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster, said last night that the four young people were not wearing climbing equipment.

Police said they believed the four had been in a small cave near the top of the cliff. Two had fallen out of the cave and down the cliff. The other two had been investigating and had also fallen.

The cavern was closed after the accident. Sixteen years ago a student became entombed inside the cavern after three days of rescue attempts failed to reach him. Five weeks ago a youth club member from Liverpool fell to his death outside the cavern.

The Queen to visit Finland

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh have accepted the invitation of President Kekkonen to pay a state visit to Finland in late May, 1976.

The Prince of Wales's 10-day visit to India next month has been cancelled on Government advice. Buckingham Palace said yesterday. He hopes to visit the country later.

S African troops

Preitoria, Sept 5—South Africa today published the text of a note it sent to Portugal asking that its troops had crossed into Angola. This was the first official confirmation of the troop movements. Newspaper reports about them had been prohibited—Reuters.

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Sir Robert Mark in pledge to quash evil that killed bomb hero

Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, paid tribute to a bomb hero yesterday and pledged himself to seek out the "mindless" murderers. "In dealing with the evil which cost him his life, whatever its source or numbers, we shall not weaken or relax our efforts whatever the cost, whatever the sacrifice," Sir Robert said.

He was giving an address at the funeral of Captain Roger Goad, aged 40, an explosives officer with the Metropolitan Police, who died when a terrorist bomb he was tackling exploded in his face in London last week.

The Methodist Church at Basingstoke, where the service was held, was filled with 250 mourners, relatives, Army colleagues and policemen. Another 500 people lined the street.

Captain Goad's widow and his two daughters, Sharon and Nicola, aged 10 and five, were there. Sir Robert said: "His cruel and wicked murderers are to be pitied for the mindless brutality they are, devoid of reason, devoid of humanity, deserving only of the contempt of their fellow men."

"They offer a stark contrast against which the nobility and unselfishness of this gallant man will be judged."

After the service the cortege, led by a police patrol car, drove to Aldershot for a cremation ceremony. Officers of the Metropolitan Police, A division, where Captain Goad was based, and men of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, his unit, lined the drive to the cremation chapel. A blue Metropolitan Police flag draped the coffin.

Police held warrant since April for Miss McKearney

By a Staff Reporter

New Scotland Yard disclosed yesterday that the police held a warrant since April for the arrest of Miss Margaret McKearney, aged 21, the Irish terrorist named by the bomb squad on Thursday and whose picture was issued by Scotland Yard.

A warrant for Miss McKearney's arrest was issued in April in Southampton to Hampshire police. It covers possession of explosives and attempting to cause an explosion in Aldershot last December.

The bomb squad has linked Miss McKearney with terrorist activities in London, Southampton, Manchester and Liverpool since last winter.

Southampton police made the first move in the process of identifying her when policemen were shot in an incident at a house on Christmas Eve.

New Scotland Yard yesterday said more than 500 calls had been received from the public as a result of the appeal for information. Detectives believe Miss McKearney may still be in Britain but if she is not, the unwelcome publicity is expected

to destroy her use as a courier and to break the chain of communication between terrorist cells.

Scotland Yard issued a statement last night denying reports that the photograph of Miss McKearney published in the national press was taken this week by an undercover agent in the Irish Republic.

The statement said: "The photograph of Margaret McKearney was taken this week by an undercover man of the C11 intelligence branch of New Scotland Yard as she was coming out of a bar in Bire in a complete fabrication. The photograph concerned was in fact discovered during the search of a house in Manchester last summer while inquiries were being made into IRA terrorist activities."

A spokesman refused to comment further on newspaper reports which quoted Scotland Yard as saying that the picture had been taken in the Irish Republic by an "information source" who asked a unique opportunity to "snatch a quick picture".

Two policemen jailed for burglaries totalling £14,000

From Our Correspondent

Manchester

Two young police officers who stole property valued at thousands of pounds while on night duty were each sentenced to four years imprisonment at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

They had used a key found in a new shopping precinct and had a knowledge of protective devices. But most of all they had used their ability to go unquestioned through the night, Mr Alistair Bell, for the prosecution said.

Robert Glasby, aged 29, of Rales Close, Droylsden, Lancashire, who had six years' police experience, admitted 17 burglaries involving goods valued at £8,000. John Spence, aged 24, of Kingley Close, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, who had been in the force for four years, admitted 15 burglaries, involving goods valued at £6,000.

Judge Philip Hinchcliffe told them: "The integrity of police officers is a matter of the utmost importance and you have both betrayed the confidence

placed in you. While serving officers you committed serious offences of burglary while on duty and in uniform. Your course of conduct was utterly disgraceful and can only call for severe punishment."

Mr Bell said that Mr Glasby and Mr Spence, who had since resigned from the force, committed the offences over about a year in Droylsden and Ashton while on foot and on panda car patrol.

When their conduct came to light through interviews with a receiver, Mr Glasby said it started because they found premises insecure, and once they realized it was easy to get rid of the goods the offences snowballed. He added: "I feel so ashamed that I have brought disgrace on the job."

Reverend Evans, aged 23, of Grimsby Lane, Middleton Junction, Lancashire, who was described as the principal receiver of the goods, was sentenced to 12 months' jail after he admitted eight offences of handling. Three other men who admitted handling were each fined.



A marksman firing yesterday at the windows of a car suspected to contain a bomb outside the Cavalry Club in Piccadilly. Part of Piccadilly was closed by the police while the car, a white Ford Capri, was investigated. It proved to be a false alarm.

Hilton witnesses complain about 'delay'

Continued from page 1

Police last night estimated the size of the bomb at between 5lb and 10lb. Mr Albert Pick, a newspaper telephonist, who took the warning call, said the man spoke with a soft Irish accent. The caller sounded educated and the call did not appear to come from a public call box.

A statement from Downing Street said that the Prime Minister had heard with sorrow of the explosion and the casualties. "Mr Wilson has expressed his abhorrence of this senseless and wanton crime and sends his sympathy on behalf of the Government, to the injured and the relatives of the dead."

Most of the injured were taken to St George's Hospital, at Hyde Park Corner, where most were discharged after treatment for minor cuts or car damage. Of eight detained, the condition of one man who had his leg amputated was said last night to be "critical".

Another man underwent surgery for leg wounds and another for wounds to his abdomen. A woman was admitted to the maternity ward, where she later gave birth. The hospital said that both mother and child would be "fine".

Relatives inquiring about injured should telephone the following numbers: 01-434 5136/5183/5485/5486. Some of the injured were taken to Westminster Hospital.

Mr G. Padon, an Italian businessman who lives in London, said that he was sitting in the London Tavern, in the

Hilton, having a glass of wine with a friend before lunch. The hotel was "full of police" 30 minutes before the bomb went off. "No one told us to get out. Everyone should have been out of the hotel from the moment of the first warning. Two of my friends had their ear drums blasted. They should have shut the hotel."

Mrs Molly Bysh, aged 33, who was serving in the jewelry shop in the hotel lobby when the bomb exploded, said she saw a police car come up to the hotel with its sirens on about 10 minutes before the explosion.

"They rushed into the hotel, looked around, then came out and sat and talked on their radio for a few minutes and then drove away. About 10 minutes later two policemen came into the lobby and then the next thing I knew was the bomb went off."

"The jewelry shop was completely demolished. The whole lobby was in absolute chaos, people lying all over the floor. We were lucky to be standing at the back of the shop, away from the window."

"There was jewelry all over the floor and I picked up a necklace of silver and diamonds worth about £1,500 that I just tripped over as I was being taken to the ambulance. There must be thousands of pounds' of jewelry still scattered all over the floor."

Mr Mohammed Ikhalaf, aged 26, a hair porter, said that he was in the lobby waiting for a lift when he heard a big bang. "People were running off screaming, lying on the floor."

There was glass and dust everywhere. I helped to take a number of the injured off. They were mostly Arab guests. The lobby and the restaurant were completely wrecked. It was a miracle that I escaped uninjured."

Mr Juan Ramon, vice-president of a Venezuelan car company, who is on holiday with his wife and two daughters, was having a late breakfast in the London Tavern when the bomb exploded. He also said that he saw police searching the lobby as long as half an hour before the bomb went off.

A police spokesman said later that if the police had tried to evacuate the hotel the casualties could have been far worse. Hundreds of people would have come down through the lifts and out into the lobby. "It would have been sheer carnage."

He said it was the decision of the hotel whether to clear the building and he pointed out that it was impossible to evacuate people every time there was an alarm. The Hilton had received eight similar hoax calls in the past week alone. Other hotels in the area had also received such calls.

The London Hilton opened in 1963 with 512 bedrooms, capable of accommodating 856 guests. It was previously attacked in December, 1973. One bomb was left at a side entrance and another placed near the petrol tank of a car on the other side of the hotel. Both exploded but nobody was hurt.

Police explain: Scotland Yard said that a 999 call was received

by its information room from Associated Newspapers switchboard at 11.58 (the Press Association reports). Within seconds the room broadcast a radio warning to cars and also told police at Vine Street.

From there a police officer immediately telephoned the security staff at the Hilton with details of the threat. An area wireless car with a crew of three then went to the scene. The duty officer, an inspector from Vine Street, went as well.

When the car arrived at the Hilton, the hotel security staff said that they had carried out a search and that there was no trace of a bomb. While police were in the hotel the duty officer telephoned Associated Newspapers to say that there had been a search and it looked as if their information was false. Seconds later the bomb went off.

Because of the many hoax calls and false alarms, police usually recommended evacuation only if a suspect object had been found.

Bomb squad officers were last night searching for a navy blue Mini, registration KEL 229E, which was seen outside the hotel shortly before the blast. It had two passengers, one aged about 30, about 5ft 9in tall, of medium build and with short, black hair.

Later last night Scotland Yard had not named the dead. One of the seriously hurt was Mr Brian O'Dell, of Hallow, Bedfordshire, who has head injuries. He was transferred later to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Leading article, page 13

Nine years' jail for blowing up wife's house

Mr Graham Neal, aged 42, blew up his wife's house because she had left him, Leeds Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Neal, a lorry driver, formerly of William Street, Chorwell, Morley, West Yorkshire, pleaded guilty to three charges of destroying a house and one of damaging a house and endangering the lives of neighbours. He was sentenced to nine years' imprisonment.

He had told police, it was stated: "I would not have done it if she had not left me. She had everything. I had nothing, so I decided to burn the house down."

Mr Franz Muller, for the prosecution, said Mr Neal had met a married woman in July, 1973. She had later been divorced and married him in June, 1974, and they had lived in her house in William Street, Chorwell. But the marriage had not been happy, and early last June she had left her husband.

When she returned to the house to collect some clothes, Mr Neal had protected his love for her. But she said she would not return to the house while he remained there.

He had attached a plastic tube to a gas pipe, turned the gas on and lit a bottled gas stove upstairs. He then left the house. About two hours later there was an explosion. The house and two cars were destroyed. The cost of the destruction was estimated at £30,000.

Asked after his arrest if he had given any thought to his neighbours, Mr Neal said: "I did not think of them. I just thought of her and the house. She thought more of the house than me."

Mr Roger Scott, defending, said that "in this household all arguments led to the question of the house. It was her house and if he did not like it he could get out. That terminated most arguments. By doing what he did he hoped things would get better, and the obstacle to good relations between him and his wife would have gone."

17 lives lost in Severn 'death trap'

After hearing how three children from the same family drowned in the river Severn, Colonel David Crawford-Clark, the Shrewsbury coroner, said at the inquest yesterday that he was appalled that no one in authority seemed to be responsible for river safety.

He said 17 people had drowned in the river this year and added: "I am writing most forcibly to the county council, urging the appointment of a river safety officer."

He recorded verdicts of death by misadventure on Nicola Watt, aged 13, and her brothers Andrew, aged 10, and Timothy, aged nine, of Brougham Road, Harlequin, Shrewsbury, who died when they went for a Sunday afternoon swim.

Mr Gerald Williams, a Severn-Trent Water Authority inspector, said the shingle beach at the spot where they drowned was a death trap. A shallow area of 10 inches fell suddenly to a depth of 14 feet with a whirlpool.

In brief

Murdered man identified

The murdered man a lake at Earlwood, Shire, last week was yesterday as Mr Frai aged 33, a car dealer, last seen in November.

Unemployed pry

Workers who lost when the London East group stopped trading day held a demonstration at the London East group's headquarters, 100, Strand, yesterday. They were demanding a new representative to the Department of Employment.

Murder police seek

Lincolnshire police are looking for the murderer of a 72-year-old woman found dead in a car on Saturday, which was a green Rover 2000, registration number CEE 80.

Dry fly

Passengers on the same European flight from Heathrow with British Airways yesterday had no bad luck as the plane operated on a normal schedule against long protest against long.

Motorway noise

People living near the M4 in the South to have double-glazing at a cost of more than £100,000 by the Government's Services Agency traffic noise.

\$400 fine appeal

Maria Montagnoli, holidaymaker who £400 for bringing a kitten to Britain and against the law, she was a customs official for her as she arrived in port.

Horse fever stop

A case of swine fever, a disease of hogs, was found in a Newmarket stud a month ago, the M. Agriculture said.

Train hits buff

Twelve people when a passenger train into the buffers at the end of the line, Northern Ireland, the injuries were in.

Ship collision

Four Irishmen were the fishing boat Avon day before it sank mouth of the River being in collision with the Fernhurst.

Former MP fine

Raymond Blackburner MP and an anti-nuclear campaigner, £2 for being drunk, place in Hammersdon, on August 10, appeared before the magistrates yesterday.

Phone for disal

A telephone booth for the disabled was Oxford yesterday, a fault in the system, the country if it is.

5 minutes to midnight

If you saw the film on BBC2 you'll want to help. If you care about the world's hungry people you'll want to do what you can.

More than half the world lives in appalling poverty. Something can be done and it is being done, but not enough. Time is running out. Our organisations help people to help themselves with small, practical programmes. The benefits multiply.

We don't pretend we can solve the world's problems; but we are making it a better, fairer place for some of those in the greatest need. With your help we can change it for more people.

We are all involved in a world where the poorest aren't getting a fair chance. Please do what you can, give generously of your money and your time and make an active interest in one of our organisations.

Joint appeal sponsored by: Cafod, Christian Aid, Help the Aged and Oxfam.

Please send to: Appeal 'Deadline', Room 11 Barclays Bank, 1 Pall Mall East, London SW1. I enclose my gift of £. I am willing to help Cafod/Christian Aid/Help the Aged/Oxfam with a little of my time. Please send details. Name Address

Search for 24 immigrants in smallpox alert

By a Staff Reporter

The Department of Health and Social Security said yesterday that 24 immigrants from Bangladesh who have arrived in Britain since the first week in August may have been exposed to smallpox while collecting their immigration papers at the High Commission in Dacca between August 4 and 8.

The department said 61 people received entry papers in the High Commission during the five days. Of those, 28 are still in Bangladesh. Nine people have been traced in Britain and are under observation in isolation.

The warnings were sent to London from Dacca where a small boy who had been present in the High Commission developed the disease. All immigrants into Britain from Bangladesh are required to have a smallpox vaccination certificate.

Home Office rules boy must leave UK

By a Staff Reporter

Last-minute representations were being made last night to the Home Office to stop a boy aged 12 being sent back to Cyprus.

Christos Christofis had been sent by his Greek-Cypriot mother to his father in London, from whom she is legally separated. Mr George Eugenio, community worker with Kenish Town Citizens' Advice Bureau, said:

"Because of the aftermath of last year's Cyprus troubles, she was anxious for her son to stay in England in his father's custody for the period of his education. She had expressed her agreement in a letter on legal oath, Mr Eugenio said."

Yesterday the Home Office was standing by its decision that the boy was to return to Cyprus today. An official said representations had been considered regarding the custody of the child, but it had been decided that his mother had

Government callous over jobless, Mr Heath says

By Our Political Staff

The Government was accused yesterday by Mr Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, of cold, callous indifference over rising unemployment.

Speaking to the Edinburgh Junior Chamber of Commerce, Mr Heath recalled that he was "blasted and booed in the Commons" by Labour politicians when he was Prime Minister. He continued: "I do not intend to go back over the past. But I do think that it is worth recalling the mindlessness, and the heartlessness that characterized the empty promises uttered by Labour ministers a year ago."

It showed how little they understood unemployment, the connection between inflation and loss of jobs, the

inevailability of the consequences of the often contradictory, and ineffectual policies they had pursued.

Buried in the total figure of unemployment was a high proportion of young people, many of whom would normally be expected to start their first job at the age of 16, 17 or 18, but were unable to find work.

"Of course, the figures cannot begin to measure the crushing hopes of those young people and the feelings of aimlessness which are bound to afflict them. Nor is this just a temporary phenomenon, shortly to be forgotten."

He added: "Who can be surprised if they turn against the democratic system which apparently cannot give them a decent start to their working lives?"

Mr Stonehouse visits a friend in prison

By a Staff Reporter

Mr John Stonehouse, MP, returned yesterday to Brixton prison, where he spent five weeks on remand to visit a friend awaiting trial.

He said later that he had written to Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, as part of his campaign against the "scandal of the bail system", calling for an inquiry into the complaints of two women whose husbands are on remand at Brixton.

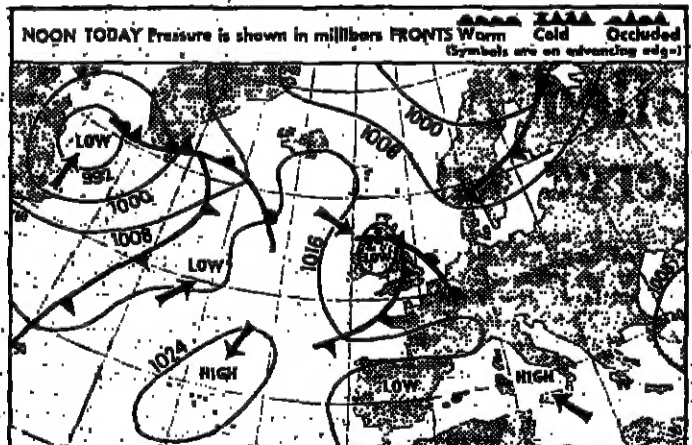
Explaining his visit, he said: "I went with my wife to visit a friend I made there in C wing, one of the many I made while I was in prison. This had nothing to do with the general campaign I am conducting. It was a social visit."

"The campaign I have started, however, is now getting under way. I want to coordinate all the informed opinion about the bail system that I can. It is intolerable that so many unconvicted defendants are denied their liberty and the chance to prepare their defence."

He had also written to the Home Secretary asking for an immediate inquiry into a sit-down protest at Brixton Prison earlier this week, after receiving a letter from the wife of one of the prisoners involved in the protest.

She told Mr Stonehouse that the protest was against an alleged assault on a prisoner by a prison officer. Her husband and two other men had been put into solitary confinement,

Weather forecast and recordings



Today Sun rises: 6.20 am. Sun sets: 7.27 pm. Moon rises: 7.18 am. Moon sets: 7.28 pm. First quarter: September 12.

Lighting up: 8.7 pm to 5.52 am. High water: London Bridge, 2.39 am, 7.6m (24.9ft); 2.57 pm, 7.6m (25.0ft). Avonmouth, 8.22 am, 7.1m (23.3ft); 8.39 pm, 7.4m (24.3ft). Dover, 12.4 pm, 7.2m (23.6ft). Hull, 6.57 am, 7.9m (25.9ft); 7.33 pm, 7.7m (25.3ft). Liverpool, 12.18 pm, 9.8m (32.3ft).

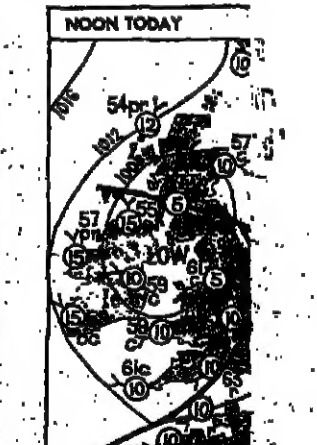
Tomorrow Sun rises: 6.22 am. Sun sets: 7.35 pm. Moon rises: 8.43 am. Moon sets: 7.53 pm. Lighting up: 8.5 pm to 5.53 am. High water: London Bridge, 2.24 am, 7.8m (25.5ft); 2.46 pm, 7.8m (25.5ft). Avonmouth, 9.6 am, 14.2m (46.6ft); 9.25 pm, 14.5m (47.5ft). Dover, 12.25 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft); 12.49 pm, 7.3m (24.0ft). Hull, 7.41 am, 8.1m (26.7ft). Liverpool, 7.8m (25.6ft). Liverpool, 12.36 pm, 10.1m (33.2ft); 1.3 pm, 10.0m (32.8ft).

A depression off Scotland 460 miles towards central England. Forecast for 6 am to midnight: London, SE. England, East Anglia, SE. Central, SE. England, E. Midlands, Channel Islands: Mainly cloudy with rain at times; wind moderate; max temp 18°C (64°F).

W. Midlands, Wales, Lake District, SW. NW. central, N. NE. England: Mainly cloudy with rain at times; wind moderate; max temp 17°C (63°F).

I. of Man, N. Ireland: Cloudy with rain, brighter later; wind SW, turning moderate or fresh; max temp 14°C (57°F).

Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, SW. Scotland, Glasgow: Cloudy sun.



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THE TIMES

HOMENEWS

Theatre Museum to be housed in Covent Garden flower market

By Kenneth Gosling

Arts Reporter

Covent Garden is to house the proposed Theatre Museum. After months of argument and speculation, the decision was announced yesterday by Mr. Jenkins, minister responsible for the arts. It ensures that the Fine Rooms at Somerset House, for long expected to be the museum's home, will be available for another purpose, such as a permanent Turner exhibition.

The Department of the Environment, which is responsible for Somerset House, will be consulting appropriate bodies, including the National Gallery and others, to find an alternative use for the Fine Rooms.

Negotiations between the Greater London Council and the department on the terms and conditions of leasing the basement of the Flower Market at Covent Garden, where the museum will be located, will probably take some time, the D.E. said yesterday.

The building programme is still to be resolved, it is understood the museum could be ready to move into its new home by 1977 or early 1978. At

present prices the cost of the building work is estimated at £250,000.

During an adjournment debate in March Mr. Jenkins told the Commons that, since a number of the supporters of the Theatre Museum had come to the conclusion that the Fine Rooms at Somerset House did not provide the ideal location for the museum, he was ready to consider any alternative that could be accommodated within available resources and could better meet the needs of the museum, both as to time and accommodation.

He announced that he was in touch with the GLC and the Department of the Environment about the possibility of using the Flower Market.

Mrs. Jean Merritt, chairman of the GLC's Covent Garden development committee, said the museum was being found the kind of accommodation it wanted, and as far as the GLC was concerned it was the right place.

The basement of the Flower Market would provide the storage room, needed and it was a place that would respond to the theatre's inventive needs.

Leading article, page 13

Canon quits conference over priests' votes issue

By Robert Nowell

Canon Cornelius Beagrie, of Worcester Park, Surrey, resigned yesterday from the National Conference of Priests during its final sessions in Birmingham because, he said, the body was not representative of Roman Catholic diocesan priests in England and Wales.

The sixth annual meeting was attended by 86 delegates representing 5,000 priests.

Canon Beagrie said he was there with only six votes from among the 365 priests of the Southwark diocese, which he represents. Others were there with only seven votes, one with only one. "A massive abstention cannot be regarded as a vote in favour," he said. "Only the priests can make the NCP a representative body, and quite obviously they have not done so."

In his concluding address, the Right Rev. Derek Worlock, Bishop of Portsmouth, emphasized the bishops' backing for the NCP as the only officially approved representative body of priests in Britain and said the bishops had recommended an election procedure which normally would ensure a vote of between 60 and 70 per cent.

Establishment of Scottish Assembly before next election still not certain

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

It is almost a year since the Scottish Council of the Labour Party was firmly steered by the national executive in London into supporting the concept of a Scottish assembly.

In that year there has been little sign that the most stalwart opponents of devolution have altered their hostility, although the Scottish Council maintains a public face in favour of the Government's commitment to set up an assembly. It accepts the need to avoid losing votes to the Scottish National Party, but a majority within the council supports an assembly with only minimum powers.

Mr. Tam Dalyell, MP for West Lothian, who is chairman of the Scottish parliamentary group and vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, is the only member openly to oppose the idea of an assembly, and as the date for publication of the White Paper on the subject draws nearer, he is looking round for other bold souls to support him. That there is to be an assembly is now a fact of political life, forced on the Government by the success of the SNP, and accepted in as many months as it took years to reorganise local government in Scotland.

As the stated time approaches for the assemblymen to take their seats in Edinburgh, nothing is yet known about their number or their authority. But all political parties are becoming

acutely aware of the difficulties involved and of the need for the Government to "get it right first time", especially since it seems likely that there would be strong government opposition to any tinkering after the assembly has been established.

Many Scottish nationalists fear the assembly is being set up at a time when public expectations are rising as dramatically as prosperity is falling, and that any shortcomings in the assembly will be blamed on a lack of power. If more authority is given, perhaps in response to further pressure from the nationalists, the slippery slope leading to the break-up of the United Kingdom could have been reached.

What may force delay and allow more time for debate is the overburdened state of parliamentary business. Even though the Government has given devolution a high priority it is doubtful whether it will be possible to set up the assembly on schedule.

If the Tories, Liberals and SNP joined together to support a system of proportional representation for the assembly, or if the proposals were too "maximalist" for the Tories to stomach, the Bill could be defeated. Time and opposition could yet allow the Government to enter the next general election saying, honourably, of its commitment to set up an assembly: "Sorry, but we tried hard."



'Piano Hands', one of a collection of offset litho prints on show at Canada House, London, until September 26. The collection represents the work of 18 artists from Open Studio, in Toronto.

Waving the Nato flag in the Forth

From a Staff Reporter

Edinburgh

One of the world's largest warships, the 95,000-ton aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, dropped anchor in the river Forth yesterday.

The Royal Naval dockyard, upstream at Rosyth, would have been happy to play host to the nuclear-powered American ship, with its crew of 5,000 and flight deck the size of four football fields, but there was some doubt whether it could get under the Forth Bridge.

Instead it lay like a new island 12 miles towards the river mouth, buzzing with helicopters and small boats.

The carrier is part of a small but highly potent American Navy task force visiting Britain. With the Nimitz are the guided missile cruiser South Carolina and the attack submarine Sea Horse, both nuclear-powered. There could be little doubt this was intended to be an impressive flag-waving exercise.

The Nimitz, we were told, could operate for 13 years without refuelling, and had a complement of more than 100 aircraft, including supersonic attack planes and anti-submarine tracking aircraft.

Public relations staff have supplied exhaustive statistics. The ship has, it seems, 6,200 beds and weighs as much as 47,000 cars. The paymaster hands out \$900,000 a month in salaries, and the galley serves 2,700lb of meat a day. There is also a \$2.5m colour television studio and medical facilities, which would shame some hospitals ashore.

The Nimitz was commissioned last May and has completed her operational shake-down.

Five burnt in blast

A badly burnt workman drove three companions and a boy aged four eight miles to a Chesterfield hospital yesterday after they suffered burns in a factory explosion at Ashover, Derbyshire. They were in a satisfactory condition last night.

Teaching of comparative religion in schools 'no substitute for Christianity'

From Tim Devlin

Education Correspondent

Oxford

The teaching of comparative religion in religious education was not a substitute for Christianity, the Rev. Patrick Barry, headmaster of Ampleforth College and chairman of the "Schoolmasters' Conference" told the conference of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools in Oxford yesterday.

Criticising the recent recommendation by the National Foundation for Educational Research that lessons in Latin, Greek and Marxism should be included in the religious education syllabus, he gave a warning that the whole question of schools' Christian tradition was under attack.

"The teacher, staff will not be able to teach Christianity in the foreseeable future. The best we

can hope for is that it will maintain the rights of minorities," he said.

"We are faced with the growth in schools of the teaching of comparative religion. We do not wish to impose our faith on others. But in response to parents' wishes we wish to convey the faith of parents to their children. The Christian belief provides a Man is not a creature of this world only. He is an amphibian moving on to another world," he added.

Mr. M. J. Jones, bursar of Wesley School, said that preparatory schools would face a much more serious economic difficulty in the next two to five years. The conference might not be able to make its full impact felt before next year, but he was sure there were many to whom the sym-

ptoms were uncomfortably apparent.

He said: "Our clientele is as hard hit as anyone in that income simply cannot keep pace with rising fees and are continually. School by the effects of the set taxation threshold. It seems inescapable that for the present time private boarding education will be afforded only by a diminishing few."

But there were welcome signs. Many parents would make real sacrifices to avoid the headlong stampede towards comprehensive education.

The long-term effect of the capital transfer tax and the proposed welfare tax were uncertain but "it seems that education will have some increase in value. It is becoming one of the assets which a parent will actually pass on to his child," Mr. Jones added.

Belgian accused of murder bid

Albert Meashen, aged 30, a Belgian accused of attempted murder, was remanded at Marylebone yesterday for trial at the Central Criminal Court.

M. Meashen, unemployed and homeless, is charged with attempting to murder Inspector Derek Croft at the Holiday Inn, Marylebone. Illegal possession of a Sten gun, a loaded Browning automatic, a magazine revolver and ammunition, and having the Browning intended to resist arrest.

Silver attracts brisk bidding

There was brisk bidding for silver yesterday at Phillips's London sale room, where there is no buyers' premium. A routine sale yielded £13,084, slightly above estimate.

Silverman paid £600 for a Victorian tea and coffee service by Bernard Brothers (estimate £600-£700) and a George III three-piece tea set by William Nowlan, of Dublin, went to Black for £200. A sale of stamps made £17,011, with an album collection of nineteenth-century stamps going to a dealer for £2,020, three times its estimate.

Welsh Assembly 'should not get university control'

University education should not be one of the functions devolved to any Welsh Assembly that emerges as a result of the Government's impending White Paper, Professor Ivor Gowan, head of the department of political science at Aberystwyth University College, said at a University of Wales administration conference at Aberystwyth yesterday.

He said that although the Kil-

Four more strike pickets are discharged

Four more strike pickets arrested after a disturbance at a Newcastle building site last January were discharged at Newcastle Crown Court yesterday.

Judge Myrrell Cohen quashed submissions accusing them of using threatening words and behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. No objection was offered by the prosecution.

On Thursday four other pickets were similarly dealt with and another was discharged after Judge Roderick ruled that there was no case for him to answer on a charge of possessing an offensive weapon, a stone.

The tenth picket arrested at a site near West Henderson, 23, of South Shields, will go on a new trial on Monday charged with assaulting a police officer.

After a four-day hearing the jury failed to reach agreement. Thursday and he was given a

Police to interview man in Paris over Davis 'alibi'

By Michael Horsnell

Police investigating the case of George Davis, the London motorist driver, who was sentenced to 20 years after being found guilty of taking part in a payroll robbery, are to interview a man in Paris who claims that Mr Davis was with him at the time the robbery was committed.

The man, who is aged 39 and comes from Finland, is said to have worked as a minicab driver for the same company as Mr Davis in Bow, east London.

According to a report being studied by the police, he was on duty with Mr Davis at the time of the robbery, but he failed to inform the police because he had entered Britain illegally.

He is said to be now ready to give evidence.

Det Supt Jack Moulder, of Hertfordshire CID, who was called in by Scotland Yard to head the investigation, will examine new evidence which is believed to implicate two other men in the robbery.

Mrs. Rose Davis said yesterday that she was sure that evidence now coming to light would prove her husband's innocence.

George Davis, of the campaign to get him out of prison and he now believes he will get his release. He was in good spirits when I last saw him," she said.

Part of the campaign to secure Mr Davis's release was the sabotaging of the Headingley Test match pitch last month. Four persons have been charged in connection with the incident.

Light potato crop pushes up chip and crisp prices

By Hugh Clayton

Food processors plan to charge more for chips and crisps because a light crop has reduced the price of potatoes. Birds Eye Foods, which raised the price of frozen chips 10 days ago, has already asked for another increase.

Mr. Ronald Grosvenor, technical operations manager for Birds Eye vegetables, said: "We are very concerned about what is going to happen in the October/November period, when we could lose money. The increase applied for which the Price Commission is examining, was smaller than the company believed it could justify," he added.

McCain International, the largest processor of frozen chips in Britain, said it was adding "an emergency surcharge of around 7p a pound" to its catering supplies of chips.

"The triple increase in potato prices means that McCain must pay the farmer over £100 a ton, compared with only £30 a ton before the summer," the company said. "With the great scarcity of British

potatoes, keeping supplies coming in has not been easy. We have brought in shipments of McCain French fries from Canada, which have supplied to the British caterer at well below cost."

Golden Wonder, which produces more than a third of crisps eaten in Britain, said that it had asked the Price Commission for leave to raise the price of a small packet from 4p to 5p. "This has come about through the wonderful summer we have had," the company said.

The hot weather after late frosts had restricted the potato crop while stimulating demand for snacks like crisps. Potato processors said yesterday that they were confident of maintaining supplies of their products, but were worried by the absence of the usual seasonal fall in crop prices.

Finlands said it had raised the price of frozen chips from less than 12p a pound to 15p in the past two months, and Ross Foods announced increases of up to 15p in the potato on many frozen foods, including chips.

Milk may be rationed in the winter, Tory says

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

There was a danger of milk rationing in the next two winters, Mr. Michael Jopling, Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said yesterday. He is to see Mr. Peart, Minister of Agriculture, on Monday about supplies.

He said there was pressure from farmers for the diversion of milk from liquid sales to butter and cheese. That was a reference to a meeting on Thursday at Exeter at which hundreds of farmers voted for such a policy.

Government policy, as operated by the Milk Marketing Board, is to maintain supplies of liquid milk at the expense of the manufacture of butter and cheese. No butter is being made in Britain, apart from a little in Scotland.

Mr. Jopling said that if sup-

plies were diverted there would be "serious danger that housewives will face milk rationing in the coming winter." Rationing was also likely in the winter of 1976-77, because of the low rate of expansion of the national dairy herd.

It became clear yesterday that the Milk Marketing Board would resist attempts by farmers to have milk switched from the liquid market. The board is expected to concentrate on pressing the Government to secure an increase in the British milk price at a meeting of EEC farm ministers at the end of this month.

A spokesman for the board said yesterday that there was only one solution to the dairy crisis, a substantial increase in milk production. He added that the Minister of Agriculture had the power to over-ride decisions of the board.

ICI PUTS PROFITS BACK TO WORK-AND THAT MEANS JOBS

ICI is going ahead with its 1975 plans to invest the record figure of over £400m in new plant and equipment.

In the first half of 1975 our sales were £1,502m. Raw materials, wages and salaries, other costs and depreciation amounted to £1,344m, leaving profits of £158m before tax.

ICI's cash flow—that is these profits plus the amount set aside for depreciation—came to £242m for the half-year. Nearly two-thirds of this is being used to develop the business.

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS TO ICI'S CASH FLOW

£49m	TO THE TAXMAN	Enough to build several hospitals or 49 miles of motorway.
£149m	TO DEVELOP THE BUSINESS	This money keeps existing plants efficient and pays for new ones, which are costing more and more. ensures that the business stays healthy and that jobs are more secure.
£10m	TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS	Partners, that is, in businesses not wholly owned by ICI.
£34m	TO ICI SHAREHOLDERS	There are nearly 600,000—including our own employees who are shareholders through our profit-sharing scheme, and many of the country's pension funds. Savings invested in ICI deserve their reward.

EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM ICI'S PROFITS



of religious discrimination

The vision of Nick Jenkins

by Michael Ratcliffe The final volume of 'A Dance to the Music of Time', Anthony Powell's incomparable sequence of 12 novels, is published on Monday. Michael Ratcliffe, Chief Book Reviewer of 'The Times', reviews the entire sequence and visits Powell at his Somerset home

Widmerpool is dead, pitifully destroyed by fanatic self-determination. There could be no other final measure to 'A Dance to the Music of Time' and when *Hearing Secret Harmonies* is published on Monday Anthony Powell's incomparable sequence of 12 novels, begun a quarter of a century ago, will be complete.

The new novel ends, as *A Question of Uprightness* (1951) began, with the spectacle of snow descending on fire. Interring his most notorious character to soporific enumerations from *The Anatomy of Melancholy*, Powell returns his narrator, Nicholas Jenkins, to his country home and to echoes of Poussin, whose painting in the Wallace Collection first announced the theme of cyclical patterns, giving the whole sequence its title.

The shuddering sound from a quarry had declined now to no more than a sonic reverberation, infinitely remote. It ceased altogether at the long-drawn wail of a hoover—the distant pounding of centuries' hooves dying away, the last note of their crotch trumpeted out over hyperborean seas. Even the formal measure of the seasons seemed suspended in the wintry silence.

Incomparable? English critics have persistently countered Powell, to his disadvantage, with two other novelists who appear to have used similar techniques in covering some of the same social, military and Bohemian ground—Proust and Waugh. To read the entire sequence, however, and to talk with Powell himself, is to feel beyond doubt that 'A Dance to the Music of Time' conjures entirely its own vision of life and death from a kind of chemical wedding between seventeenth century magic and twentieth century urbanity. The result is a personal mythology of our time, a comedy on the nature of change itself. There is no 'correct' view of 'The Music of Time', Elton Arden and Buster Fox, Uncle Giles and Tuffy Weedon, Dicky Umfraville and Mr Deacon, Quiggin, Flora Wisebite and Mona are all gone into the world of light.

Powell has never lacked resources of metropolitan detachment, but as the 'Dance' has proceeded, turning like Poussin's smiling figures into and out of the light, treading between the tedium of war and the catastrophe of peace, the vision has grown, changed and darkened of its own accord, the shadow of Jacobean and Caroline perceptions falling across it darkest of all. Robert Burton ('an old friend'), Thomas Vaughan (the alchemist), the poets Raleigh and Herbert, the playwrights Marston, Fletcher, Middleton and Tourneur: one by one they have been summoned to cast a spell of insoluble mystery over the last three 'Winter' volumes. Unlike many long-term projects, the 'Dance' has sustained its energies of narrative, invention and absolute wit to the end. *Books do Furnish a Room* (1971), *Temporary Kings* (1973) and *Hearing Secret Harmonies* are richer, subtler, funnier and more disturbing than their nine predecessors, although they are matched in all these qualities by single sections in such, particularly in long stretches of the second, *A Buyer's Market* (1952) where Powell really digs himself in, and the sixth, *The Kindly Ones* (1963), where he liberates his language from whimsical convolutions and sets new standards of simplicity and truthfulness by which the rest can be judged.

If you have read none of the novels—and Powell's readership, though generally loyal and well-informed, particularly in the United States, is not nearly as wide as it should be—you could start with *The Kindly Ones*, whose opening section, covering events in an Aldershot Army bungalow on the afternoon of the Archduke's assassination in 1914, is one of the most perfect things written by an English novelist since the English novel was pronounced dead and buried by those who should have known better. Perfect in structure, perfect in high comedy, perfect in ominous despair.

It is not true, though often repeated, that each novel is colourless without the rest: the last three stand quite alone, so does the 'Autumn' trilogy of the Second World War—*The Valley of Bones* (1963), *The Soldier's Art* (1966) and *The Military Philosophers* (1968). Even in the first five, where the resonance of recurring characters and occasions is much more pronounced, it is usually effected in manner that both brings the reader up to date and assures him that he is in on something new. 'The first person I saw in the gallery', writes Nick in *The Acceptance World* (1955) 'was Sir Gavin Walpole-Wilson... He looked no older; perhaps a shade less sane'. No one could fail to read on after that.

His daughter had won the long conflict with her parents. I



Montage/Trevor Sutton
wondered if Eleanor still wore her hair in a bun at the back and talked with a whistle. It was unlikely she would have changed much.

"I expect she finds plenty to do," I offered. "Her breeding keeps her quiet," said Sir Gavin. He spoke almost with distaste. However, perceiving that I felt uncertain as to the precise meaning of this explanation of Eleanor's existing state, he said curtly, "Labrador."

There is the essence of Powell: the narrative straight face; the blessed gift for believable dialogue of all kinds; the pervading theme that the more the surface of English life changes the more it stays, astonishingly the same. "You have to step out once in a way," explains the barely observed husband in *At Lady Molly's* (1957), "Run melancholy mad otherwise". Stepping out for Ted Jeavons means getting very drunk indeed and going to bed for a week to recover. Others step out more dreadfully, into suicide, scandal, or fanaticism. Particularly the last two.

Running melancholy mad is perhaps the distinguishing mark of the Powell hero. It happens first to Nick's alcoholic school-friend Charles Stringham, who never appears in the story without stirring a shudder of horrified sympathy, and who dies after the fall of Singapore; Stringham is a kind of damned saint. It happens to the music critic MacIntrick after his ferocious wife runs off with a dim-witted, and to Platon-Sp. Pender on receipt of a well-intentioned letter from home. It happens less fatally to Ebridge, drop-out Earl and second-rate Mybkin, Nick's brother-in-law; to the soldier-servant Bracey with his 'funny days' silently seeping facing the kitchen wall; and in the hot summer of 1940 to Capt Gwadykn for love of a cheerful but stutish barmaid, Maureen.

Melancholy madness is a phenomenon to which women are apparently not often subject and to which, though frequently the cause of it in men, they are portrayed as generally indifferent. Peter Temple, X. Trapnell and Kenneth Widmerpool himself each runs melancholy mad for love of Pamela Flitton, perhaps the most fabulously destructive heroine in literature since the Medusa. One of the most conspicuous, too: thank heaven she died her very Jacobean death before the bullying and extra-sensory faint

came on the scene in *Hearing Secret Harmonies*. But more of Scorpio MacIntrick in a moment. "A Dance to the Music of Time" is, of course, supremely, a great comedy. Powell is the biographer of John Aubrey (1948) and an editor of *Brief Lives*: he has inherited all Aubrey's exuberant curiosity and, like him, delights in human information of every possible kind. He receives with a twinkling "very serious" an American scholar's suggestion that Burton stands in the 'Dance' for Death and the spirit of Aubrey for Life; but he was sufficiently impressed by the *Anatomy's* sonorities to copy them down as early as 1928 and the almost parenthetical wonder with which Aubrey records the face of "the suspicious Venice Stanley's busi—" They melted it down—is the same that informs his own response to the marvellous inconsistencies of human behaviour. This means that the 'Dance' is guffawed from start to finish with surprises and amusements:

"Fishcake," he said. "I was only half awake. It was almost as if the dream continued. As I have said MacIntrick Jones's temper was not of the best. He began to get very angry at once, as it turned out with good reason. "Fishcake," he repeated. "Fishcake," Fishcake—fish—cake. Obviously—"Fishcake" was a kind of code-word. The question was: what did it mean? I had no recollection ever of having heard it before. "I'm sorry," I said. "Fishcake," he said. "I don't know what it means." "Fishcake, I tell you..." "I know, Leather and Toad-stone. Fishcake has taken the place of Leather and Toadstone of Toadstone. What the hell are you dreaming about?"

What indeed. The entire war trilogy moves like a slow dream inside Nick Jenkins's head intensifying to nightmare only when personal collapse or public bombardment force their way, briefly, to the front of the mind that is dreaming and ordering them. International history, in English families, has always known its place, but nobody ever forgets the little girl sick in the font at her uncle's wedding or the maid who removed all her clothes and gave notice on the day the General came to lunch. "I thought it was the end of the world," Nick's mother would

say, oblivious to the simultaneous event in Sarajevo, which perhaps was. We encounter the Hitler-Stalin pact only as pendant to Dr Trelawney's satirical attack in the bathroom of the Bellevue Hotel, his spirited predictions of Apocalypse upon rescue, and the hefty shot in the arm from the syllabic Mrs Erdleigh which shuts up the old fake for the night. A terrible war is indicated.

One of the last and most characteristic amusements occurs in the new novel, at a Royal Academy Dinner, when a silent and long-forgotten undergraduate called Paul glimpsed on the edge of an Oxford reception party in *A Question of Uprightness*, spins back into view as a malevolent elderly Canon linked to the 'transcendental' movement of Scorpio MacIntrick. The detailing here—we can almost grasp the novelist's delight in the device—becomes quite frantic: not only does Canon Fenmore turn out to be the true source of a clever letter defending a magazine reviewer's confusion of Paracelsus with Nostradamus (*The Kindly Ones*) and the one man with sufficient 'authority' to supervise the last rites of poor Widmerpool (yes, he is poor at the end) but he also touches Nick as they are leaving dinner for unwanted review-copies to help with his Christmas Bazaar. It is a perfect example of what in Julian Jebb's film (BBC 2, Monday) Powell calls 'creative fantasy': none of these uses for Paul Fenmore could have been foreseen in 1951, but in the stream of such a novelist's consciousness, particularly one whose wife enjoys a formidable memory, nothing is gone for good.

That we accept such contrivances of apparent coincidence as perfectly natural in Powell's novels—to the point, indeed, where we begin to see them at work in our own lives—is a tribute to his structural virtuosity (sometimes we do remember the boy at tea, the clever

lerner) and to the plausibility that increasingly colours his warmly sceptical view of the world. Moreover, there is little time left in the 'Dance', so Fenmore and MacIntrick are pulled at once into his main rhythms: both are shabby similes, both on the make and the last in a memorable long line of characters—among them Audrey MacIntrick, Carole, the violinist, Sonny Fargbrother, Dr Trelawney and 'Books Do Furnish a Room' Baggshaw—whose power to destroy their fellows is no way diminished by their patent absurdity. Widmerpool himself embodies the principle that, in England at least, being widely regarded as ludicrous stops no man from getting to the top, though it may, in the end, cut short his stay there. Look around you.

Powell's true genius—and here we may use the word—is for subjective synthesis. The mischievous Smedley is not merely a museum director, he is all museum directors. Trapnell may come closest to the historical figure of J. MacLaren Ross, but he is much more the quintessence of lost opportunity, in the bright, false dawn of the literary Late Forties. Nobody reading Powell's memoir of Orwell, to whom he responded with singular sensitivity, in *The Times* eight years ago, could escape the impression that Orwell's prevailing humour of gulf, affection, tortuousness, courage and sheer intellectual panache have been diffused very widely indeed throughout the many rebellious characters—Left, Right, Centre or nowhere in particular—who put up their fists in 'A Dance to the Music of Time'. The tragedy of X. Trapnell is most Orwellian of all.

As with the Death's Head Swordsman, so with Widmerpool. Contrary to the smirking speculations of those who think they know, the Frog Footman is not based on any one person in public life, but is a transformation of many. Here Powell has struck the national nerve, hard. It is because we all know at least one Widmerpool, because the country has been for many years largely run by Widmerpools, that the complete, ruthless, and unlovely Kenneth has been singled out as most readers' first memory of the sequence. Powell is still surprised and not entirely pleased by this.

There is something else about Widmerpool: we fear to catch the disease to excite ridicule. My grudge at Westbury station on the way to see Powell, regarding the door of the train and receiving down the inside arm of my Austin Reed Unstructured Suit, roughly a couple of water off the carriage roof, was pure Widmerpool. The big black briefcase, too; grotesquely ambitious for an August afternoon in east Somerset. I found myself gazing round the platform less these circumstances had been recorded by the deceptively mild eye of Nick Jenkins. I became obsessed—I defy anyone who has just read the entire 'Music of Time' not to be so obsessed—with the idea of Anthony Powell novel. There was no vanity in this: it is simply that the flavour of comic context and perception is so strong.

The obsession grew. As Simon Temple (there's a Powell name, if you like) drove me to Cheltenham, my eye absorbed the mystery of Whitshire, the stirring swell of the Mendips, the undisturbed measure of Frome and the quarry with which the 'Dance' ends; my head filled with the data of Simon's wedding, the number of guests, the cost of the dress (Leslie's, of Bath) and rather more than was good for me to hear about difficult customers in a small town like Warminster. "When will your article appear?" "September the sixth, I expect." "Same day as my wedding. Will you send me a copy?" Another coincidence. By the time we had driven through

Chantry village from the wrong direction and backed into the drive to the house, I was convinced I was taking part in a kind of rest-dream for a putative thirteenth novel. Courteous and welcoming (had he divined the weight of the bus and its contents?) Powell showed us into the drawing room to a positive racketing of explosions from the quarry which, seemed, for the occasion, to have shifted its whole operation to the foot of the garden. "It's not usually like this," he said, chuckling with the greatest possible contentment, and two days later I found the lines I was looking for in the end, most things in life—perhaps all things—turn out to be appropriate" (*Conan's Chinese Restaurant*, 1960).

"You're not by any chance related to a Bertie Ratcliffe, I knew in the war?" was not, and could not tell from his kindly dismissal of the inquiry, whether as Nick writes of Balzac on another occasion. No had been a very good answer or a very bad one.

The pounding of centuries' boots dying away, Lady Violet joined us. We had lunch, talked about the heat, Brownings, their discovery of the Brueghels at Capodimonte in Naples, the morality or otherwise of adding clotted cream to bone-made sylvan part (he didn't, I did). He had just received a postcard from a taxi-driver fan in Seattle, beginning "Hi!" and a letter from a prisoner in Virginia. The French and the Germans had both translated the first three novels to some acclaim but had proceeded no further; the Italians had done the War trilogy in one volume and the best of his pre-war novels, *From A View to a Death*, as *Passe e morte* (Landscapes and death): that sounded right.

We moved out of doors for the rest of the afternoon, and talked on the terrace. "It was said that Queen Victoria never looked round before sitting down, and I

always feel writing's rather like that. It dously, instinctive, you find it all grow your hands in the ordinary way, but it's ing blood down at all, if I complete a thous in a week.

Too much lying-law about how it's frightfully dangerous why I dislike lectur-versation is another because there you can ball back at them an interesting answers, p in America." He's curious and e listener.

I told him I had visited Chastleton Ho-fordshire, whose per-fect state of m and terrible family had reminded me of houses which form ant a setting in t novels of the sequen had never been there did it belong? Ale Brock. How extr Clutton-Brock had fellow-member, ale Harold Acton. Her ("Henry Green"), Byron, Brian Ho Oliver, Model of Society of the A which he had been write that very mor pottering with my He has already with his father as Nick Kindly Ones and Kings an unusual b his constructing a full sketch from one t Trelawney is another people are photy novels, some aren't. He was pottering mania. So who wa Jenkins.

"Nick is a person I if you're writing a must have a point of it should be one f your own. He's a co but he is not me, writing about a mas people you are sus you write directly at self. Even Proust che there."

"Nick is not, never character" in the whereas in the p-sometimes irritated apparent self-efface now clear that had vened more direct events themselves the of his vision. collapsed as couple Brueghel had sudd part in Nick's favour. "The Hunters in th The identity of Nic assumes the formula tive proportions of novel itself. "A nove X. Trapnell," writes is."

"How did it go Simon on the way bac bury. "Fine, I thi Powells had wanted why the bridegroom a the bride's dress, s him. Because that I wanted it, he said it that got us on to in-porary staff, how the nearly packed up on t from Leslie's of Bath, the night-club at Lon- failed at its very ope particular spilling of had clearly been o with those reverent serious, ensemble, parties, weddings, fun conferences—that are trated and conducted care for the audibility participant thought Dance the Music of was sorry I could not and tell the Powell night club at Longl- failed on its very ope cause as sure as a kindly ones to be propi those who seek worldy the wickedness of Unfraville had a ha somewhere.

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Hearing Secret Harmonies final volume of Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time*, is published on Monday (£3.95). The previous 11 novels are all available in paperback (Heinemann) or cover (Fontana) editions. *Books Do Furnish a Room* (1971) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Kindly Ones* (1963) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Valley of Bones* (1963) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Soldier's Art* (1966) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Military Philosophers* (1968) (£2.50 and £5.00); *From A View to a Death* (1964) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Acceptance World* (1955) (£2.50 and £5.00); *Molly's* (1957) (£1.75 and £5.00); *Conan's Chinese Restaurant* (1960) (£2.50 and £5.00); *Kindly Ones* (1962) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Valley of Bones* (1964) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Soldier's Art* (1966) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Military Philosophers* (1968) (£2.50 and £5.00); *De Furnish a Room* (1971) (£2.50 and £5.00); *Kindly Ones* (1963) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Valley of Bones* (1964) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Soldier's Art* (1966) (£2.50 and £5.00); *The Military Philosophers* (1968) (£2.50 and £5.00); *From A View to a Death* (1964) (£2.50 and £5.00); 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14	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
17	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
20	000102	000102 (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
23	300733	What's A Picture (D) (W. Rutherford), P. Mink, 1-1-1
25	021303	Habstaken (D) (S. B. Walby-Cohen), C. P. Walby, 1-1-1
28	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
31	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
34	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
37	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
40	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
43	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
46	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
49	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
52	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
55	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
58	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
61	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
64	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
67	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
70	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
73	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
76	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
79	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
82	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
85	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
88	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
91	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
94	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
97	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein
100	0-04024	On The Turn (D) (P. White), R. Lammox, 4-3-3 E. Stein

Nottingham selections
By Our Racing Staff
 1.45 Mistress Clare. 2.15 Rippling. 2.45 Invercayle. 3.15 Prince Lambour. 3.45 Will's Star. 4.15 Swift Heron. 4.45 Some Dame. 5.15 Pool Money. 5.45 Post Boy.
By Our Newmarket Correspondent
 1.45 Falling Gold. 2.15 Little Friend. 2.45 Major Concession. 3.45 Glen Cherie. 4.15 Haverack. 4.45 Some Dame.

17 18 19 20	<p>■ Newton's Cradle (E. Warren), D. Quartermaine, 10-8 Breen V.</p> <p>Oak Lass (G. Woodham), B. Camblode, 10-8 S. Fischer</p> <p>Pinkie (J. Jenks), A. Clay, 10-8 M. Gray</p> <p>Plum Gold (L. Drummond), A. Peira, 10-8 E. Gray</p> <p>Plus (J. Woolley), D. Quartermaine, 10-8 R. Morgan</p>
11-4 Adm.	S. Cresswell, 5-1 Gipsy Style, 6-1 IT Be Around, 8-1
	Oak Lass, 10-8 Plus, 1-4 others.

Bangor selections

2.15 Pandaniel. 2.45 Roisrian. 3.15 Dee Lane. 3.45 Going to Roost. 4.15 Kippie Lad. 4.35 Admay.



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NEW WORK FOR THE IMF

Those gathered this week in Washington for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund have been more concerned with the question of how and when the present world economic recession is to be brought to an end than with the international monetary system itself. Yet this very lack of emphasis is important. For the low key agreements on the position of gold in the system and the low key disagreements on exchange rate policies served to underline the fact that most of those involved will be content to let things drift in their present direction for the time being.

The apparent decision on gold, where the views of the United States and of France were opposed, may well in practice turn out to be less of a real change than seemed at first sight to be the case. First, in the formal sense, the agreement was only reached on the assumption that it would be ratified as part of a wider package, which should include agreed changes in the rules governing changes in exchange rates. These changes have not yet been agreed, since there is still a wide theoretical gap between the United States, which is insisting on an endorsement for a system of floating exchange rates, and

France, which equally insists for the moment on a commitment of principle to a regime of fixed exchange rates.

Secondly, at the doctrinal level, the gold agreement has the quality of being most things to most men. The American determination has always been to downgrade the position of gold in the system. The French have held that gold should be a more usable part of the total international reserve assets and that central banks should be free to buy and sell the metal. The agreement that the IMF should sell part of its gold to finance aid to developing countries and return a further proportion to those who subscribed to it in the first place, while at the same time all reference to gold as a point of monetary reference should be removed from the IMF's rules, is compatible with both points of view.

Finally, on a practical level, it may well prove difficult for the IMF to sell gold in large quantities, without depressing the price to a point where the object of the exercise, namely the financing of aid to its less well-off members, is foiled.

So much for the week's agreement. The week's disagreement about the exchange rate remains to be written into the IMF's

revised articles may well also have less practical import than appears on the surface. The compromise is likely to be a formula which pays lip-service to fixed exchange rates, while sanctioning the continued practice of floating exchange rates.

Behind the formalities, however, two important trends were apparent. The first is that the IMF is developing a clear additional role as an aid-giving or aid-creating agency. The proposal for a trust fund for the poorest states would be a clear move into fields that have until now been the more exclusive province of the World Bank and its aid-giving affiliates. The second is that the IMF is coming to terms with the changed political and economic balance of the world. In institutional terms this is reflected in the reduction of the voting quotas of the United States, the United Kingdom and other western industrial countries, in order to accommodate greater quotas for the oil producing countries. In monetary terms it is reflected in the general way in which the filtering search is progressing for a monetary system not based, as from the end of the war it was, on the primacy of the American dollar.

AN OUTRAGEOUS ACT

The world will be outraged by yesterday's brutal demonstration at the Hilton Hotel. That man is prepared to do to man. But the terrorists will have anticipated this before they lit the fuse, and probably even hoped for it. To repeat it is merely to echo the frustration felt by the forces of law when confronted by an enemy whose targets are random and whose respect for human life has dwindled away.

The problems facing the police have grown rather than diminished. Even the familiar "Irish accent" delivering the inadequate warning to a London newspaper leaves open a range of possibilities. The most serious would be an authorized attack by the Provisional IRA because this would imply the final collapse of the already fragile ceasefire in Northern Ireland. In fact the Provisionals have never officially admitted to any of the bombs detonated on the British mainland, and have even on some occasions officially disclaimed them—as in the case of the outrage at Caterham.

It could be the work of some Provisionals in this country working independently and at variance with the official policies of their own organization. It might have been perpetrated by

a republican splinter group uncommitted to any ceasefire, fragile or otherwise. It could even be the product of some extremist Protestants, since their activities in recent months have proved that Catholics and republicans have no monopoly of violence and bloodletting. But this must be by far the least likely answer, requiring motives bizarre even by Ulster standards.

The choice of target is not very surprising, although the Hilton, with its strong American connections, would seem an unwise victim for the IRA, which has drawn substantial, if dwindling, funds from sympathizers in the United States. Hotels in general are soft targets for terrorists—as indicated by the awful toll among Ulster's assorted hostilities. The Hiltons are sufficiently well known to ensure that the publicity is magnified.

There is also the effect upon London's tourist industry and social nightlife. Having successfully crippled the tourist industry in Ulster, are the terrorists now aiming at a similar, inglorious feat on this side of the Irish Sea? London restaurants are already blaming the bombs for some fall-off in trade, although this has more to do with the decline in

the average Briton's spending power than with fear of a random bomb attack. On the face of it the Hilton has probably been selected because of its international name rather than its place in the British economy. It is after all not the first time it has been singled out.

The intelligence problems facing the police are immense. In Northern Ireland the standard of police and army intelligence has improved beyond all measure since the rather inept introduction of internment four years ago. This partly explains why the terrorists have elected to step up their operations on the mainland—although the greater publicity value attached to a bomb in London must remain the more powerful argument.

One hopes that the echoes of yesterday's explosion will be heard loudly and clearly by the perpetrators of those calls whose malice confuses the present situation and who must indirectly bear a share of responsibility for some of the injuries inflicted over the past few years. The country, united in its condemnation, must be united in its vigilance too if terrorism of this kind is to be contained and in due time defeated.

TURNER DESERVES SOMERSET HOUSE

Blence did not fall in Covent Garden when the market moved away. There is a desultory tapping of hammers from the central building, which is being restored and converted. The reopened "bible market" is doing lively trade in T-shirts, grapes and ysters, and the temporary Japanese water-garden on the Adams site still thrives. The Covent Garden Forum is holding lectures, and the area's commercial and community contexts continue. But it has still failed to throw up new permanent uses or more than a few of the large, awkward, dilapidated and delightful buildings that the market left behind.

In this context alone, the decision that Mr Hugh Jenkins announced yesterday is plainly to the right one. The National Theatre Museum is not to be set up in Somerset House after all, but in Covent Garden, almost centrally in the basement of the old Flower Market. The decision just as right for the museum as Somerset House. The museum over could have been the ideal space for the seven fine nineteenth-century rooms allotted to it in 1973. They offered

too little space for offices, research and storage (the museum possesses a million playbills and programmes), while appropriately theatrical displays of flats, costumes and spotlights would have obscured their ornate mouldings and ceilings. The Flower Market basement, now occupied by a lively exhibition on the planning of London, has ample space and no irrelevant splendours. But after many years' struggle to get any home at all, the supporters of the museum were happy to settle for what they had been offered.

If it had not been for the Turner bicentenary exhibition at the Royal Academy last year, the imperfect solution would probably never have been called into doubt. But the great success of that exhibition revived the idea of a separate Turner gallery in which his paintings could be seen as a group. The painter himself had demanded as much in his will, and his purpose had been frustrated by rather shabby means. Of all possible galleries, none could be more suitable than the empty rooms at Somerset House, which were not only designed for the display of paintings but had actually housed the

Royal Academy in Turner's day: he often exhibited and lectured there.

Now they are available, for Turner or for some other use. Turner's claim is not an automatic one. Few artists are well served by permanent, massive and solitary exposure; only a life's work that is at once varied and coherent in the highest degree can sustain it. The enthusiasm shown by the crowds at Burlington House was partly the result of publicity and a limited season. The paradox of the rediscovery of an artist whose work was already profusely available (and, at the Tate, in the large doses that he preferred) does not say much for the influence of permanent display. Never the less, the enthusiasm has not died away, as the unusual success of the British Museum's current exhibition of Turner's watercolours testifies. His output was so prodigious that the seven rooms could be filled and leave plenty of masterpieces for the National Gallery and the Tate to show. If any artist born in these islands can make a claim to deserve a gallery to himself it is Turner.

Immigration procedure

From Mr W. Stephen Gilbert
On Sunday I returned from a riding trip to Iran, where I found a local police unfavourably inclined, generous and courteous. At Mehrabad Airport on Sunday morning, a colonel in the Iranian Army asked me if I would let his 15-year-old nephew through. I was happy to do so, not anticipating how short-lived, unhelpful, superior and utterly insensitive the immigration officer would be.

The boy, who was smartly dressed in obviously intelligent, had been sent from the school he was to end but possessed no direct evidence of enrolment; he had plenty of money in English banknotes but letter from his family to say it money would be sent on a regular basis. The immigration officer asked him for one month, enabling provided the necessary documents reached the Home Office at that period expired. This arrangement was only made, after an hour and a half strenuous argument. Only at the end of heated exchanges between self and the officer was the possibility of limited entry even raised. The officer (the officer) filled a form prohibiting the boy's entry and, she said, "didn't like attitude". At no time did she

take into account the fact that the boy spoke very few words of English and, of course, no one was available to speak Parsi.

Immigration control, it appears, is incompetent to deal with non-English-speaking arrivals and has the power to refuse entry on the arbitrary criterion of personal taste. That time-honoured excuse—that the officer was "only doing his job"—is no justification for the total lack of consideration displayed. Having passed through this unpleasant episode, I approached the information desk to have the boy's cousin paged so that he could be met. Two English gentlemen were talking loudly by the desk—"Look at all these people coming in... look at it they're in purdah, some of them... they're not fit to be here." I couldn't tell how many English-speaking foreigners were able to hear these sentiments.

At the Victoria terminal I approached a taxi and asked to be taken to Highgate. The driver refused. He said he was only obliged to go six miles. As far as he was concerned, he told me, I could walk. The driver who did accept my fare clocked the journey for me. It was just seven miles.

It's great to be home.
Yours faithfully,
W. STEPHEN GILBERT,
209 Archway Road, N6,
September 1.

Paintings of Kitaj

From Mrs Janet Daley
Sir, I dislike having to attack Paul Overy's writing publicly because he has, in the past, made some very generous comments about my own criticism but his remarks about Ron Kitaj (at the Edinburgh Festival) are too offensive to pass without rebuttal.

The statement by Alexander Moffat that Kitaj "is widely regarded as one of the greatest artists of our own era" is dismissed with a snicker when it is (and must be known to be by anyone familiar with current art world opinion) simply an empirical fact. That simple-minded cliché about Kitaj's work which Overy resurrects: that it is "literary" (because it makes reference to ideas outside the incestuous vocabulary of contemporary painting) ought to lie down once and for all. Kitaj is one of the most painterly and richly visual of living artists and for him to be treated scathingly by a critic who has often praised the most vacuous, pretentious "conceptual" (but not, presumably, "literary") and art is truly, to return Overy's slur on Moffat, the kind of thing that goes on in writing a bad name.

Yours faithfully,
JANET DALEY,
3 Gladwell Road,
N8,
September 2.

Anomalies in law on polygamy

From Mr T. C. Hartley

Sir, The question of Pakistani marriages, raised in an article in your issue of September 3, is a complex one. The problem arises because the great majority of Pakistanis are Mohammedans and if they marry in Pakistan the marriage will presumably be celebrated under Islamic law, which permits a man to have up to four wives.

Under a well established doctrine of English law, a marriage celebrated under a system of law permitting polygamy is regarded as polygamous even though the husband may have no intention of taking a second wife. If valid under the rules of English law, such a marriage will now be recognized in England for most purposes (including divorce and maintenance). There are also various ways in which it can be converted into a monogamous marriage (assuming it is *de facto* monogamous); for example, the parties subsequently acquire a domicile in a monogamous country (such as England).

In view of this, it might seem strange that if the parties are already domiciled in England at the time of the ceremony, the marriage will be regarded in England as totally void. Yet this is the common view and the Home Office was acting properly in pointing it out.

The difficulty is not just a matter of the Nullity of Marriage Act 1971, section 1(d), added by the Matrimonial Proceedings (Polygamous Marriages) Act 1972, section 4 (hardly "obscure" laws). A way round this provision was in fact discovered by Cunningham-Bruce in *Radwan v Radwan* (No 2) [1973] 3 All ER 1026.

The root cause of the problem lies in the supposed common law doctrine, propounded by academic textbook writers, that a marriage celebrated under a system of law permitting polygamy is void if either party was, at the time of the ceremony, domiciled in a monogamous country. There has never been any real authority for this doctrine and the case normally cited in its support, *Re Bethell* (1888) 38 ChD 220, was decided on quite different grounds.

The doctrine has, however, been proclaimed in successive editions of Dicey and Morris' *Conflict of Laws* and the Law Commission was talked into accepting it; hence section 4 of the Matrimonial Proceedings (Polygamous Marriages) Act. It was, however, rejected in *Radwan v Radwan*, but the doctrine put forward in its place, though meeting the case, does not solve the present difficulty.

The problem is a serious one. There must be thousands of couples in this country from Pakistan, and other polygamous countries, who imagine that they are lawfully married but whose marriages are in fact null and void in the eyes of English law. The matter could easily be put right by a short statute providing that, so long as they are *de facto* monogamous, such marriages will be recognized in this country as valid and as having been lawfully converted into monogamy. Will the Law Commission sponsor such a Bill?
Yours faithfully,
T. C. HARTLEY,
Lecturer in Law,
The London School of Economics,
Houghton Street, WC2,
September 4.

Trial by jury

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC

Sir, Professor Walker's article of August 22 on the current debate over jury trial acquitally correctly puts me as the proponent of abolition of trial by jury. May I state, however, that my advocacy of trial by a professional tribunal is prompted by factors other than any dislike about the rate of acquittals achieved by lay juries. I am of the view that the research conducted separately by Mr McCabe of Oxford and Mr Zander at the London School of Economics have so far done nothing to substantiate the criticisms advanced by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police: rather the reverse. My criticism of the jury system—which I advanced in an article in your paper last year—is based on the cohesiveness and inefficiency of our jury system and its failure to provide a proper appellate process.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
As from Poste Lafayette.

Education of officers

From Mr D. G. Brown

Sir, In your issue of September 3, your Defence Correspondent refers to the report of the committee on Army regular officer training and that it wants the art of self-expression and the ability to write clear, concise English taught and practised at every opportunity in a young officer's education.

There follows the recommendation that the Army should continue to recruit an increasing proportion of graduates, presumably because if all Army officers were graduates the problem of oral and verbal expression would be minimal. But a university degree is no guarantee of the committee's requirement. There are, however, young Sandhurst trained officers and others with military training who do in fact fulfil it.

Under the present system, graduates with no military training may gain a substantial seniority over militarily trained officers with some years' service, simply because he is in possession of a university degree, regardless of faculty or class.

As the committee's requirement ought to be paramount, would the Service not benefit if officers' seniority were determined on the results of tests of their ability to speak and write logically and clearly rather than in accordance with the present system? At least, merit would then be the criterion.
Yours faithfully,
D. G. BROWN,
Ickworth Lodge, Essex,
Ickworth Park, Horringer,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk,
September 3.

True cost of housing subsidies

From Mr Michael Harwood

Sir, Mr Nigel Lawson "no less" takes issue (September 3) with the Chief Executive of Dacorum District Council, May I take issue with Mr Lawson?

First, one cannot be dogmatic about the basis for calculating the subsidy received by local authority tenants. At one extreme, one could (and some would) argue that since everyone is entitled to a reasonable house at a price that he can afford, the subsidy is the difference between what the tenant pays and what he could afford to pay. On this basis the subsidy might be a positive or a negative amount.

Mr Lawson's suggestion (the difference between what the tenant pays and the market rent) is based on the premise—which derives from no necessary logic—that local authority housing should be treated as if built for letting on the open market with a return including the element of profit. Since, I assume, local authority houses are built to provide homes for those who need them, it would seem that even logic, it would seem that even logic is against Mr Lawson. On the basis of my assumption, the subsidy must be the difference between what the tenant pays and the cost to the authority.

This brings one back to Mr Lawson's first point, that 1929 pounds are not 1975 pounds. How does one calculate the cost of a house to the local authority?

If one takes purely historic costs, then of course the 1929 house has been paid for many times over by the tenants; and there is some justification for the argument of the 1929 house tenant that he is subsidizing the modern house tenant. Alternatively one takes the replacement cost which is the more natural basis since older houses have to be maintained, improved and eventually replaced at present prices—then obviously one uses the 1975 pound. If one takes a broad collective view, then one takes the current total cost of the local authority housing account and sets it against the total income from rents. This is what local authorities do as they do not charge differential rents for houses of different ages. If one accepts this basis, then the subsidy is the difference between the amount over and above rental income which has to be provided to balance the account.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HARWOOD,
The University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology,
King Edward VII Avenue,
Cardiff,
September 4.

From Mr Henry Aughton

Sir, Mr Nigel Lawson does us all a service by his demonstration today (September 3) that lack of comprehension about some elementary aspects of housing finance affects even some of our legislators.

In stating the obvious, that money borrowed in 1929 is being repaid

The Greek trireme

From the President of Wolfson College

Sir, I should be glad if you would allow me to comment briefly on Mr Eric Leach's article in your issue of August 30 on the Greek trireme. As a classical scholar whose conclusions about the Greek trireme he regards as "unconvincing", and as an, albeit newly appointed, Trustee of the National Maritime Museum to whose Chief Archaeologist, Mr Sean McGrail, he refers.

Mr Leach says: "Our knowledge of Greek triremes comes from conflicting descriptions, vase paintings, sculpture and coins", which "rely heavily on artistic licence", although there is enough consistency to him that we have underestimated the sophistication of these vessels. In fact the evidence from the representations he mentioned, though very scanty, is not conflicting, and is almost all so accurate that a three-dimensional projection can be drawn from them which is not only inherently plausible but satisfies the structural evidence from other sources. The Greek trireme had a very accurate eye.

Furthermore, no one who has read the recent publications on these ships could regard the reconstruction of the vessel as "an unlikely hull" (his phrase) or as anything less than a highly sophisticated affair.

Triremes were, plainly, as an ancient author says, "a complicated kind of mill", a rowing-machine designed for high speed and manoeuvrability in the sheltered waters invariably chosen for sea battles, in which the ships were used as rams. When the sea became choppy action was broken off. Thucydides says that the Corinthians in these conditions were more likely than the Athenians to

in depreciated 1975 pounds, he seems to be under the illusion that this applies only to council housing. He raised a mortgage some years ago. Did he do a calculation each year, and insist in paying more than the mortgage deed required, in order to compensate for the fall in the value of money?

His other point is that (according to him) the extent of a council house subsidy is the difference between the rent actually paid and the open market rent, if there were one. But what is the market rent; let us follow this interesting approach in his own case. Is he not subsidized twice over, once by way of tax relief, and again by virtue of the fact that he does not pay for his housing at today's values, but on a mortgage related to a value which is long out of date?

The truth is that the whole housing market is a tangled mass of complexities and anomalies; and incantations about council housing are no substitute for an objective analysis of our problems.

HENRY AUGHTON,
Chief Executive, Dacorum District Council,
Town Hall,
Hemel Hempstead,
September 3.

From Mr D. L. Bullock

Sir, The 1974 Rent Act distinguishes two basic categories of landlord and sharply differentiates between them. The first category is formed by the resident landlord who lives in part of his own house, other parts of which he lets to tenants. The second category consists of all the other landlords, be they non-resident individual owners or companies.

The 1974 Rent Act provides the resident landlord with safeguards enabling him to exercise some choice in the longer term and thus to prevent intolerable conditions (should they occur) from becoming permanent in his own dwelling house. This is excellent as far as it goes. There is however a hybrid type of landlord, who straddles the best of both worlds, to wit the professional landlord, who by way of an administrative convenience has formed a small family company to deal with the lettings so as to separate them from his professional activities. This arrangement may pre-date the 1974 Rent Act by many years and he may now find that under the new dispensation his status of resident landlord is jeopardized by being designated a company.

To restore equity in such a situation it would be desirable for an authoritative ruling to be given to confirm the resident landlord's status in such cases.
Yours faithfully,
D. L. BULLOCK,
42 Sterndale Road,
Brook Green, W14
September 4.

catch crabs. Thucydides and Xenophon tell us incontrovertibly that main-sails were left ashore before battle. Indeed, on two occasions they were captured by the enemy, Conon captured Lysander's after Aegospotami.

Mr Leach finds all this "unconvincing" and prefers to believe that triremes, being highly sophisticated sailing ships, must have used sail in battle "to secure the tactically valuable windward position". I am afraid that if he can believe that he can believe anything. Sail was used in transit, when the wind was favourable; but when the wind was unfavourable they did not normally attempt to row instead, though we do hear exceptionally of long voyages under oar, on one occasion for training. On another, a trireme under oar covered 140 miles in a long day. If that is 12 hours, at nearly 12 knots. Presumably the wind was favourable but not strong enough for sail, and the oarsmen rowed one or possibly two of the three divisions at a time. Much higher speeds would have been possible in short spurts in battle.

There is evidence that the trireme's square sail was braced round when the wind was from the quarter or abeam, but we only hear of small boats backing into the wind. The area of sail could be varied by use of brailing ropes. These facts suggest a degree of sophistication in sailing as well as rowing techniques. The Athenians of Pericles' day were undoubtedly fine oarsmen and fine sailors; they were not so foolish as to take a first-class rowing machine designed for ramming into battle under sail.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MORRISON,
Wolfson College,
Cambridge,
September 2.

A disaster relief force

From Mr David Smithers

Sir, It is beyond argument that a tiny percentage of the manpower, vehicles, equipment and logistical expertise of Nato forces, if made available on a regular basis for an international disaster relief transport force, could prevent much unnecessary loss of life in regions afflicted by flood, famine, earthquake, epidemics.

I would strongly support the appeal of Maurice Chandler and Hugh Hanning (September 4) for the British Government to take the initiative in the creation of such a force.

As a former deputy director of Christian Aid I can testify to the immense value of military assistance in an emergency situation.

In September, 1973, there was in Mali and Niger a desperate need for vehicles in an emergency vaccination campaign to save dextrocaric cattle herds from African trypanosomiasis. The United Nations had the personnel and vaccine in West Africa. We had the vehicles in Britain. The United Kingdom Defence Department came to the rescue by making available 50 soldiers and an RAF officer to drive the vehicles directly across the

Recalling past pleasures

From Professor Norman MacKenzie
Sir, Among yesterday's pleasures were the survivors of Victorian street life even in the London of the twenties which made a vivid passing show for a smug boy. The day began with market-carts rattling up from Kent to Covent Garden. At 7.30 the postman knocked with the first of six deliveries and the policeman passed on his hourly beat. Then came the milkman, pushing his large churn with metal cans hanging from a rail, the baker with fresh bread in a basket and the rag-and-bone merchant calling out on his daily round.

During the day one would see gypsies with baskets of pecks, or violets in season; Carter Paterson's van trotting slowly by, its driver looking for the card in the window which invited a call; an *Sundae*; there would be the cackle and muffled mau. Every evening, as the lamp-lighter poked his stick up to the lamps, the newsboys would saunter past crying their papers. All have gone; there are only a few market stalls left to remind us of past Christmas, with the hissing naphtha flares, and the smell of chestnuts and tangerines pungently hanging in the fog.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN MACKENZIE,
2 Montpelier Villas,
Brighton,
September 4.

From Mr Kingsley Royden
Sir, As a ten-year-old during the mid-twenties in the streets of Bromley-by-Bow, East London, walking barefoot in the spray of the council's water-cart, I remember, Yours faithfully,
KINGSLEY ROYDEN,
27 Chestnut Close, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

From Mr G. C. Bird
Sir, In the early twenties, riding a London tram between 10 am and 4 pm for "2d all the way", Yours faithfully,
G. C. BIRD,
2 Grove Road,
Sheffield.

From Mr Patrick Mills
Sir, In the 1920s one could buy an inner tube for 6d, a can of Bala and over an hour of dribbling delight—and a bun could be bought for 4d, including currants. Yours truly,
PATRICK MILLS,
11 Hillbury Close,
Warrington, Surrey.

From Mrs Cecil Flemming
Sir, A drive in a motor car. Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH FLEMMING,
14 Northampton Park, N1.

From Mr C. B. Q. Nicholls
Sir, The letters that have appeared in your columns over the past few days on the subject of yesterday's pleasures have proved beyond all reasonable doubt that there is still one thing left for us to enjoy: Nostalgia. Yours, etc,
BENJAMIN NICHOLLS,
Queens' College,
Cambridge.

City of London Police

From Mr J. O'Dwyer
Sir, Yesterday I read a plea from the Assistant Commissioner of the City of London Police pointing out why his force should not be swallowed up in the mad rush to make everything bigger. Surely overall efficiency comes from small efficient units. Amalgamations tend to reduce rather than increase efficiency, although a few "coppers" may be saved.

The City of London Police is faced all over the world for the dignity, fairness and efficiency in its dealings with minor and most complicated matters, so why change a winning team?

I had the honour to serve in the force for over 30 years and I have seen the pageantry and splendour of the City but I was also there during the blitz when the old City was an emblem of freedom.

The City Police operates at the hub of British trade in a most unobtrusive manner but ever watchful. Think on this. Come on you City toffs, make your voices heard and save the dear old City of London Police.
J. O'DWYER,
12 Embury Court,
54 Bounds Green Road, N8,
September 3.

Kriket

From Mr Patrick Howarth
Sir, I think I can tell Mr Michael Vyryan (September 3) when and where the first cricket match took place in Poland. It was early in the summer of 1946 on a football ground in Warsaw, the two teams being composed of members of the British Embassy staff. The air attaché captained one team and I captained the other. In the eighteenth-century tradition we had a wager of 5,000 zlotys on the match, the rate of exchange between the pound and the zloty being at that time a matter of opinion.

Unfortunately for me, shortly before the match two clerks at the air attaché's office had to be replaced and both their replacements were more than competent fast-medium bowlers. The air attaché's team won.

One of the difficulties we encountered was that of persuading small boys in Polish, without the advantage of a public address system, why they were welcome to throw the ball in after it had crossed the boundary line and not before.

The match aroused a certain amount of interest locally, and it is possible that the seed we then sowed has now flowered in Slovakia. I wonder whether the Slovak spectators whom Mr Vyryan met were better instructed than the Poles. Yours faithfully,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
912 Nell Gwynne House, SW3,
September 4.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Insurance

The case of theft is often not so simple

Obviously, one of the main reasons why householders take out insurance is because of the theft cover. Far more people have lost possessions through theft than as a result of fire.

But just because something is missing from its accustomed place does not necessarily mean that it has been stolen—and this is where trouble may develop with one's insurers.

The rate of premium charged for contents under a normal householder's policy is quite modest, bearing in mind that it covers not only theft, but also fire, storm, burst pipes and many other types of loss.

Much more expensive is "all risks" cover for jewelry and other valuable items. Some insurers will cover clothes and other personal effects on "all risks" terms, although, in this event, generally an excess is incorporated in the policy so as to avoid trivial claims.

The important point about "all risks" cover is that it really does cover almost any kind of loss or damage. Among the exceptions are wear and tear, general deterioration etc. But, something simply cannot be found (naturally, after a really thorough search has been made for it), the insurers will pay up.

It is by no means follows that, in similar circumstances, a claim would be settled for theft under the basic householder's policy. Before paying a theft claim, the insurers will need to be convinced that the loss really was caused by theft.

For a start, is there evidence that a thief entered the house? If not, one is off to a poor start. Secondly, it is a condition that in the event of theft the police must be notified. Do they agree that a theft has occurred?

Of course, one may be convinced in one's own mind that something could have been discovered only by being stolen—and this view may be reinforced if one only has a householder's policy without an "all risks" extension to it.

When faced with this kind of situation, the insurers may handle it in whatever way they think best. For instance, somebody who has had a long claim-free spell may be given the benefit of the doubt. And, for obvious commercial reasons, the same may apply to an individual who is an important contributor in one way or another.

Even so, if the benefit of the doubt is to be given, the insurers are likely to suggest that a thorough search should be made of the house—even though the policy holder may not like kindly to such a suggestion.

On occasions, insurers are proved to have been right. A few months later, rather sheepishly, the policy holder may write to say that the item for which the claim was paid has

turned up. Normally, when this kind of recovery occurs, the insurers give one the choice either of repaying the money which they paid for the claim, or of returning the recovered items—which are then sold as salvage.

In the normal course of events, insurers will not be able to realize any recovered property for anything like the figure settled as a claim. This is one of the reasons why they will be so anxious to see if an item can be found (or can be recovered by the police) before settling a claim on it. Once a claim is settled, even though the property may be recovered—unless it is of considerable sentimental value—the chances are that the insurers will be out of pocket.

What is the position if an item of jewelry is stolen by a jackdaw, or even if a stray dog makes off with an expensive joint of meat?

It is easy to think that this should be covered, on the basis that a court should interpret words in a legal contract according to everyday meaning. In practice, an insurance company is likely to dispute almost certainly. It will take the view that the legal meaning of theft is as defined by the Theft Act, and add that a court gives words their legal meaning when construing the words in a policy. And so a householder's policy does not cover theft by a bird or animal. But there would be cover for this kind of loss under an "all risks" policy.

Many household policies have certain limitations so far as theft is concerned. For instance, any claim for the theft of money, or for any theft at all if the buildings are left, let or sub-let, may not be paid unless the thief involved forced and violent entry to or exit from the building.

For a claim to qualify under this heading, there must have been more than a technical "breaking"—which could mean no more than using a duplicate key.

On the other hand, it has been established that if a thief gets in by picking the lock or forcing back the catch of a door by means of an instrument, this qualifies as forcible and violent entry as required by the policy wording.

The important point to bear in mind about this is that the violence must be connected with the actual act of entrance or exit. For instance, if the thief gets in and out without any violence, a claim will not be payable even if, for instance, the actual theft is made by forcing open a locked desk or safe.

In the past, many policies have provided cover only for the contents of the house, with the result that claims have been turned down for anything

which happened to be just outside the house or outbuildings. Typical examples have been clothes taken from a clothesline in the garden, or a box of laundry left outside the back door.

Naturally, this caused hard feeling among policy holders, and some claims were settled on an *ex gratia* basis. Now, some insurers are making it quite plain that this type of claim is covered, but this practice is not yet universal.

On the same principle, it is generally best to leave a bicycle in a garage or other outbuilding rather than just outside. If it is stolen from inside the building, a claim should be covered under the policy, but not if it was outside.

In the past, some insurers have taken a tough line over this and have refused to meet claims on an *ex gratia* basis for bicycles which were in the open. Their view has been that, should they settle for that kind of claim, the next time, the bicycle might have been stolen from the road just outside the house, and just outside they stop? Clearly, the line has to be drawn somewhere, and so they have stuck to the policy wording. That, however, is not a universal attitude.

After all, the competition in insurance policy is not just on printed conditions and premium rates, but also on the settlement of claims—with some insurers generally being looked upon as being more "helpful" than others.

John Drummond

Pensions

Injustice of the generation gap

The Government's new state pension proposals completed their parliamentary course in the last days before the summer recess, just unseemly haste. Now there will be a short interlude before the inevitable regulations start to appear.

It is an appropriate moment to take stock of the position we have—in some ways by accident—now reached.

Attention has been concentrated in recent months on points of detail—understandable, of course, because whatever one's view of the scheme, it made sense to try to make the best of it. The unfortunate result is that one or two basic points of principle have been forgotten.

When Mrs Castle first introduced her scheme, she explained why it yielded better pensions than the last Conservative government's proposals: the "magic", as she called it, was the use of contributions to pay current benefits.

What she did not explain was that this device keeps the cost down only if the higher level of benefit is restricted to people retiring after the scheme starts and particularly if it is introduced by stages over a long period.

The new scheme follows this practice. One necessary consequence is that the costs rise for many years, ultimately by something like half; the other is that existing pensioners get nothing out of it at all.

These points attracted adverse comment at the time. There is something unattractive about the idea of the present generation promising itself benefits at the expense of its children, but keeping the cost to itself down to a minimum by leaving its parents to rub along as best they can.

You may think this is all water under the bridge now: the Bill is an Act and the Conservatives, having refrained from voting against it in Parliament, will not repeat it if they regain power before 1978, when it comes in force. There are two reasons, however, why this basic principle should not be forgotten.

The more immediately important is that the structure we now have could be made reasonably equitable as between successive generations by various means, the relevant one at the present time being contracting out by occupational pension schemes.

Contracting out is the facility for occupational pension schemes to take over responsibility for part of the pension under the new scheme in exchange for a reduction in national insurance contributions. Because occupational schemes are generally funded—that is, they accumulate contributions in respect of members

to provide for the benefits for those same individuals—contracting out will result in a reduction in national insurance contribution income now in exchange for a reduction in national insurance benefits in the future, when the present generation of workers retire.

The effect will be to even out the inequality between this generation and the next by increasing the burden at the present time (because income is reduced, but commitments remain unchanged) and reducing it in the future.

Just now, contracting out looks decidedly unattractive because of the financial uncertainties for the employer; but as the result of a power to make regulations, introduced into the Bill at the very last moment, the Government is still able to modify the conditions to some extent. Mr O'Malley, the Secretary of State, has promised to see whether something can be devised to remove the uncertainties.

It seems, however, that the Government is looking at the problem solely from the financial point of view of the National Insurance Fund. The overriding consideration seems to be to avoid any additional expenditure in the state scheme.

If the price of avoiding gross injustice between generations by making contracting out feasible is to run the risk of a fairly minor additional cost to the state scheme in certain

conditions, it will be a price well worth paying.

There is a danger that the rules may remain unchanged and that contracting out will be largely limited to the public sector—the Civil Service—nationalized industry and local government. The numbers contracted out may well still be large—perhaps four million people—and we may be tempted to feel that all is well.

If this situation should arise, it will be important to remember that a significant part of the public sector, notably the Civil Service, does not follow the principle of funding commonplace among most occupational schemes.

For these schemes finances are run on the basis that current income is applied to pay current benefits, just on the same lines as under the new state scheme. Contracting out schemes of this sort will not make any contribution towards redressing the injustice between generations.

This fact may escape notice for many years. It will become obvious when contribution rates go on rising, although the level of benefits remains unchanged and the proportion of pensioners in the population starts to fall again.

Our children are going to ask themselves why they are paying all this extra money. How sympathetic will they be towards their retired fathers when they realize that it is because we promised ourselves benefits at

their expense—benefits not feasible to afford at present?

This is the second of the basic principles relevant to the above scheme, and hence, in the long run, the pros and cons of it.

The immediate issue is the financial one of contracting out as to the permitted guarantee inflation-proofed pension state scheme.

How ill-edged is the top 2 times as hard, it will not be difficult to distinguish between the two, which are repayments incurred for a pension on which a government should and payment of debts himself by the credit consideration.

Mrs Castle and Mr. hoped to go down into the people who establish state scheme which a long-term basis for security in retirement incorporated a partnership healthy occupational movement. They are likely to achieve this, now in danger of being a state scheme which might be a disaster, and which kill national schemes.

Eric E

Putting boardroom snoopers off the scent

A month ago there was a news item about a reporter who exposed details of the contents of five plastic bags of household rubbish from Dr Kissinger's Washington residence. Mocking journalism, I suppose you'd call it, and though it did list such choice items as the number of empty Bourbon bottles and old bubblegum wrappers, little was revealed that would have been of much use to a foreign agent or potential assassin.

On the other hand anybody's rubbish gives some kind of a clue as to the innermost character of the person who threw it away, which could be of strategic value to an enemy. Psychological examination of the doodle on a discarded paper in a leading industrial waste paper basket would probably tell more to a charlatan industrial spy than the contents of the papers themselves. But the businessman reveals more of his character by the state of his briefcase than by anything he writes or says.

Psychological examination of the papers in a leading industrial waste paper basket would probably tell more to a charlatan industrial spy than the contents of the papers themselves. But the businessman reveals more of his character by the state of his briefcase than by anything he writes or says.

Take my own briefcase for example. The trained observer would notice that I was both



"The doodles would probably tell more to a charlatan industrial spy..."

superstitious and sentimental. The left hand section of the case contains, among other things, a number of items to ward off evil spirits, chief of which are a curiously shaped stone, and three assorted children's milk teeth which the Magic Tooth Fairy has at one

time or another subscribed to at the customary rate of 5p.

The second obvious characteristic is that I like to be ready for any eventuality, or putting it more realistically, I get in a panic if I don't think I am going to be ready for any eventuality. This is why I carry large

numbers of paper clips and rubber bands, spare cartridges for my pen, batteries for my tape recorder, and a midge-stapler from Red China, minutely enough. This has never let me down but was never of greater use than when I was stuck in a Manchester hotel room in which the curtains absolutely refused to close properly until I had stapled them irrevocably together with

I am also obviously organized about financial matters, established by the fact that in the right hand side of the case there is a small woolen pocket-book cover made for me by my son John in his handwork class when he was six. This contains bills and two stamps, to one of those creditors who have been lucky in the current month's draw, and the other for the rest who have to be pushed forward for another 30 days.

Then there is a group of articles which I use to impress clients, but shamelessly taking them out and putting them on their desks when I am ostensibly looking for something else. These include old newspaper cuttings about Algerian athletics and the new theory of magnetism, envelopes with the House of Lords crest on the back.

Francis Kins

Capital transfer tax

When the day of reckoning comes

A few weeks ago I discussed the rules, which pinpoint the person responsible for settling the capital transfer tax bill when a gift is made. It is equally important to know when that person has to pay up, because interest starts to run if the tax is not paid on the due date.

The rate of interest so far as lifetime gifts are concerned is 9 per cent. The interest is not tax deductible, so for the individual paying income tax at the basic rate of 35 per cent, 9 per cent net is equivalent to gross interest of 13.85 per cent.

For those who have a tax rate of 38 per cent the gross equivalent moves up to 14.50 per cent and it progressively gets higher until, at the extreme end of the scale, the 98 per cent taxpayer is effectively paying a mind-boggling gross interest of 450 per cent. Clearly, whether one's income is high or low, the inland Revenue is not the cheapest of money lenders.

Because the capital transfer tax became law only some six months ago (although, of course, it was made retrospective to March 26, 1974) there is a breathing space for both the submission of the CTT returns and payment of the tax. No action is required before next

week—September 13 to be precise.

Otherwise, the rule for lifetime gifts is that the tax is payable six months after the end of the month in which the gift took place. But if the gift was made after April 5 and before October 1 in any year there is a little more time, the tax becoming due on the following April 30.

Readers who have been following this series may recall an earlier article in which I talked about the capital transfer tax returns, the law requiring that a form be sent to the inland Revenue within 12 months of the month in which a gift is made. There is a strange inconsistency between this deadline and the date on which the tax is payable.

In most cases the tax will fall due for payment before the form has to be sent in. And it follows that interest will also start to run before the form has to be submitted.

This could result in particular hardship where the valuation of shares in a family company is a concerned—negotiations with the inland Revenue are often protracted and interest could become payable because of the unavoidable

delay in quantifying the liability.

On a death the deceased's personal representatives must submit a CTT form within 12 months of the end of the month in which the death occurs. Again we have the inconsistency that the tax falls due for payment six months after death and interest starts to run from that date. In this case, however, the rate of 6 per cent (not allowable for tax) instead of the 9 per cent for lifetime gifts.

The personal representatives cannot obtain probate until they have both sent in the return and paid the tax.

There are two scales of CTT rates, the lower one applying to lifetime gifts and the higher one applying not only to property passing on death, but also to gifts made within three years of death. In this latter case, the tax will originally have been calculated at the lower rates, there will be an additional liability.

This extra tax bill will fall on the donee, so recipients of large gifts beware! The due date for payment is six months after the end of the month in which the death occurs and, if there is any delay, interest at 6 per cent starts to run from that date. It is interesting to note that

where tax and interest has been overpaid to the inland Revenue (this could happen because values have been overestimated, or, on death, a liability has been omitted from the original return) the repayment will carry interest from the date on which the payment was made at the same rate as any outstanding tax would have attracted (that is, 6 per cent on lifetime gifts, 9 per cent on death). Just as interest paid is not tax deductible, so interest received will be non-taxable.

The donor of a lifetime gift has to pay the tax in one lump sum and is not allowed to spread the payment (unless the gift comprised woodlands). However, if the donee bears the tax, he or she can elect to pay it by equal instalments spread over eight years provided the gift falls into one of the specified categories.

The type of assets concerned are, very broadly, land, a controlling interest in a company, certain unquoted shares, and securities and businesses. Personal representatives are also allowed to pay the tax on these special types of property by instalments.

Payment can be made by instalments of equal yearly instalments or 16 equal half-yearly instalments.

Vera Di Palma

Fixed interest investment

To those having little shall more be given

You couldn't exactly say that United Kingdom interest rates have been sliding over recent weeks. But certainly they are less firm than they were, with the coupon on local authority

yearling bonds, for example, coming back from 11½ to 11 per cent last week. And money market rates generally were weaker on Friday.

Rates in Europe are definitely on the way down, with the French announcing a cut in their bank rate from 9½ to 8 per cent as part of a deflationary package whose details were spelt out last week. But that is not going to have much of a direct effect upon developments in the United Kingdom.

For the trend of United Kingdom interest rates depends, to a large extent upon the investment predilections of the oil producers. And they are not averse to putting their money into Europe. The choice still lies between London and New York—and there are still doubts about the timing of United States inflation to leave the United Kingdom rates hovering in competitive sympathy.

In the short term they may harden, for there are big oil payments coming up in a little over a month's time. And, in any case, the Bank of England is unlikely long to continue to support the pound, out of respect to the extent that it did last month.

But over the medium term there seems likely to be a fall, particularly if continued moderation on the part of the trade unions permits a measure of success for the Government's anti-inflation policy.

So it might be as well for anyone who wants to secure himself the benefits of good interest rates and who is prepared to put his money away for a term of years to act now rather than risk missing the term. Certainly anyone with £500 to put away for a year should get on to Leicester City straight away, for the 11 per cent which the local authority is offering is better than anything being offered in the money markets for much larger sums.

On a similar sum Bristol and Reading both offer 12½ per cent on a two-year investment, while Liverpool is offering the same on a five to seven year term. But this is fairly unattractive

unless you are prepared to take so long a view on interest rates.

The £1,000 investor should look to the yearling market for the short term, but can obtain 12½ per cent from Bolton or Darcom on a three-year term, while anyone with £5,000 will find that Lillingdon is offering 13 per cent for five to seven years.

These rates are attractive, even as against those offered to much larger investors in the money markets or on instruments such as Treasury or Commercial bills, or sterling certificates of deposit. These latter, however, being negotiable, require much less in the way of commitment, so that investors with a fair amount of money to deploy can both enjoy good rates and keep their options open.

Treasury bills, in particular, are now being issued in such quantities that the yield has risen to a point at which it compares well—given the impeccable security—with that on commercial bills or sterling certificates of deposit. Demand for Treasury bills has been strong, so that the two latter instruments are being issued in fairly small numbers; and the balance of supply and demand—and the yield relative to Treasury bills—is in consequence, abnormal.

It is possible to obtain Treasury bills as denominated of £5,000, whereas money market rates on deposits through the clearing banks or money brokers come into operation only on sums upwards of £10,000.

Although, however, the rate on Treasury bills on issue—just under 10½ per cent on Friday—compares not unfavourably with that obtainable on the inter-bank market, anyone investing a mere £5,000 in this form of security is unlikely to obtain a rate of much over 10 per cent once his clearing bank has settled handling charges with the discount broker from whom it is bought. So yearling bonds look a much better bet for anyone wishing to deploy that sort of money and obtain some flexibility.

Just how much even the very large investor does have to pay to keep his options open becomes plain from the rates being quoted by one money broker yesterday, on sterling

certificates of deposit, upwards of £250,000, a three-month "CD" he was offering 10½ per cent, on a 10½ per cent and on the 11½ per cent.

What this reflects is a slackness of demand for outside the public sector, plunging interest rates; it also shows that the Government's determination to stave off recession, nevertheless, shows for once, to those who have much, more is not given.

When it comes to market fixed interest securities, advice is still to keep clear. There is something of a technical position in the market where prices have, for example, recently to make "up" stock—the stock is issued by the Government broker as a means both of financing government debt and regulating the behaviour of the market—fairly active again, so that any new money going into the market is likely to end up purchasing this rather than pushing up prices elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the shorts still nervous, with all eyes developments in the United States. I think you may be able to buy more cheaply if you defer purchases for a while; any rate you are not likely to lose much.

However, investors tempted to buy gilts through the National Stock Register, who activities I described a fortnight ago, might like to know that this facility is available through the Trustee Savings Banks as well as through the Post Office. And, according to the TSB manager who informed me of it, help is available in the selection of the right stock, at the right form will be provided.

Adrienne Gleeson

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Growth and specialist funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index: 1,515.1; rise from January 1, 1975: 51.2%. Average change offered to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: +26.1%; over 3 years: +28.7%. Statistics supplied by Money Management and Unitholder, 30 Finsbury Square, London, EC2.

Growth	A	B	Reliance Opportunity	35.0	-18.3
Confederation Growth	63.4	-12.2	Tyndall Nat. Cap F	34.3	-43.7
Dragon Growth	61.1	-3.5	First National Gro	32.9	-33.7
Unicorn Prof M	52.8	-	Oceanic Recovery	32.0	-32.7
S & P Ebor Sel Gro F	50.0	-26.9	Hambro Accumulator	30.8	-28.8
National West Cap	49.2	-22.8	British Life Capital	30.6	-28.7
Abey Capital	48.0	-	Oceanic Performance	30.6	-30.0
Dragon Capital	45.6	-18.4	Grace M	30.0	-
Pearl Growth	44.3	-43.1	S & P Scottgrowth	29.7	-35.5
Hambro Recovery	43.9	-26.1	Target Eazie	29.0	-37.1
Crescent Growth	43.6	-58.3	Slater Walker Prof	28.1	-25.4
Schroder Capital F	43.6	-10.1	Gracie M	28.0	-
Stratton F	41.9	-15.4	Stockholders F	27.8	-30.5
Unicorn Growth	40.4	-37.4	S & P Scottfunds	27.4	-17.6
Morgan Gren Insur	38.2	-22.9	Unicorn Recovery	25.7	-30.3
S & P Capital	38.1	-34.8	Slater Walker Cap	25.2	-7.5
Vanguard Growth	38.0	-41.3	Abey Growth	24.8	-36.8
S & P Ebor Capital	35.9	-38.5	Hambro Smaller Sec	24.8	-
Morgan Gren Capital	35.8	-27.7	Hambro Smaller Cos	23.8	-45.5

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Key Capital	20.1	-43.9	Creosote Worldwide	24.4	-28.5	Jacot North Sea	12.1	-
G.T. Capital	19.9	-38.3	S & F US Growth	33.8	-30.7	Henderson Internat	11.6	-19.1
M & G Growth	19.8	-31.0	EMI Samuel Dollar	33.3	-15.0	Trident Inter	11.1	-26.0
Erldge Tallan Cap	19.7	-45.2	S & P Ebor Property	33.2	-33.9	Dragon Commodities	10.5	-24.7
Target Growth	17.7	-44.4	London Wall Int	32.3	-22.3	Slater Brit O of L	8.6	-60.2
National Shield	17.5	-21.0	Target Financial	33.0	-25.3	Abacus Eastern & Int	7.8	-
Jackson Compound	16.4	-33.2	Drayton International	32.3	-10.1	M & G Far Eastern	7.8	-
Oceanic Capital	16.1	-44.7	Charterhouse Europ	31.8	-3.1	Harper Preference	6.8	-21.1
Target Claymore F	14.9	-31.6	Target International	31.6	-	Unicorn American	5.6	-21.9
Slater Walker Status	13.2	-	Alfred Hambro Int	30.8	-	Henderson N American	5.7	-
M & G Recovery	12.6	-21.2	National Universal	30.5	-26.8	Slater Walker Fin	5.6	-9.6
Henderson Inv Fld	12.6	-30.3	Jacot Fin & Prop	29.1	-41.6	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1
Brande Capital	8.4	-	Slater Walker Far E	28.5	-13.7	Ro-an International	3.6	-
New Court Small Cos	4.9	-	Slater Walker Europe	28.3	-42.2	Henderson Nat Res	3.1	-30.7
M & G Special	4.3	-37.2	EMI Samuel Int	27.8	-3.9	M & G European		
G.T. Macnamara	4.3	-	S & P Ebor Universal	27.9	-12.2	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1
Henderson Capital	3.4	-24.1	EMI Samuel Int	27.8	-3.9	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1
New Court Equity	1.6	-36.5	Financial Priority	26.9	-40.9	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1
Investment Performance	-0.0	-47.9	S & F European	26.6	-6.9	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1
Slater Walker Status	-1.7	-56.2	Securities International	26.5	-10.1	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1
Erldge Growth	-17.8	-56.2	Securities International	26.5	-10.1	Slater Brit Internat	4.4	-35.1

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